TUESDAY
June 9, 2026
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The top court verdict endorsing SIR raises constitutional concerns

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Spinners bowl India to a thumping win

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A fire in the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. steel plant in Visakhapatnam on Monday after a blast and spilling of molten iron. PTI

Visakhapatnam steel plant blast kills eight

V. Kamalakara Rao
VISAKHAPATNAM

Eight workers were killed and six injured in an explosion at the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) steel plant in Visakhapatnam on Monday, officials said.

The blast triggered a massive fire and led to the spilling of hundreds of tonnes of molten steel, they added.

The accident occurred around 4.40 p.m. when a ladle carrying hot liquid steel exploded in the steel melting shop unit.

The injured have sustained critical burns, sources said.

District Collector M. Abhishikth Kishore, in an official statement, confirmed that five regular workers and three contract workers were killed, while a manager-level officer was said to be among the victims.

The deceased were not immediately identified.

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20 Trinamool MPs plan to form a separate bloc, support NDA

Rebel MPs meet Union Minister Bhupender Yadav at his residence, taking the rebellion in the party to the national capital; Barasat MP Dastidar says she remains chief whip of the party, set to submit letter to Speaker seeking separate recognition

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The rebellion in the Trinamool Congress reached the national capital on Monday as several of its MPs held a meeting at the residence of Union Minister and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) West Bengal observer Bhupender Yadav.

There are 29 MPs of the Trinamool Congress in the Lok Sabha, and, according to those present at the meeting, 20 of them have come out in rebellion against party chairperson Mamata Banerjee and general secretary Abhishek Banerjee. The 20 rebel MPs plan to form a bloc and support the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance government at the Centre.

Trinamool Congress MPs holding a meeting at the residence of Union Minister Bhupender Yadav on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Barasat Lok Sabha member Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar is emerging as the leader of the bloc. Dr. Dastidar, who was recently removed as Trinamool chief whip in the Lok Sabha, has started warming to the BJP. The MP told sources close to her that she remains the Trinamool chief whip on paper and will submit a letter with signature of 20 MPs to the Lok Sabha Speaker, seeking recognition of the MPs as a separate bloc.

Changing dynamics

The development comes almost a week after nearly 60 of the 80 MLAs of the Trinamool came out in rebellion and elected a new Leader of the Opposition, Ritabrata Banerjee.

He welcomed the fast-changing developments in Delhi, and said that the MLAs and the MPs were guided by a common idea. Photographs emerging from the meeting showed several Trinamool parliamentarians holding a meeting at the Union Minister's residence, where West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari was also present.

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Trinamool divide revives govt.'s delimitation hopes

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

The rebellion in the Trinamool Congress ranks has revived talk that the Centre is mulling a fresh delimitation Bill as early as the Monsoon Session. The previous move to redraw electoral boundaries based on 2011 Census was defeated in the Lok Sabha after failing to achieve the required two-thirds majority.

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NEARBY

Minister unhappy with portfolio sans BDA, BMRDA

BENGALURU
Krishna Byre Gowda, who has been allocated the Bengaluru Development portfolio, has expressed reservations over not being given Bangalore Development Authority and Bengaluru Metropolitan Region Development Authority along with the portfolio. » PAGE 4

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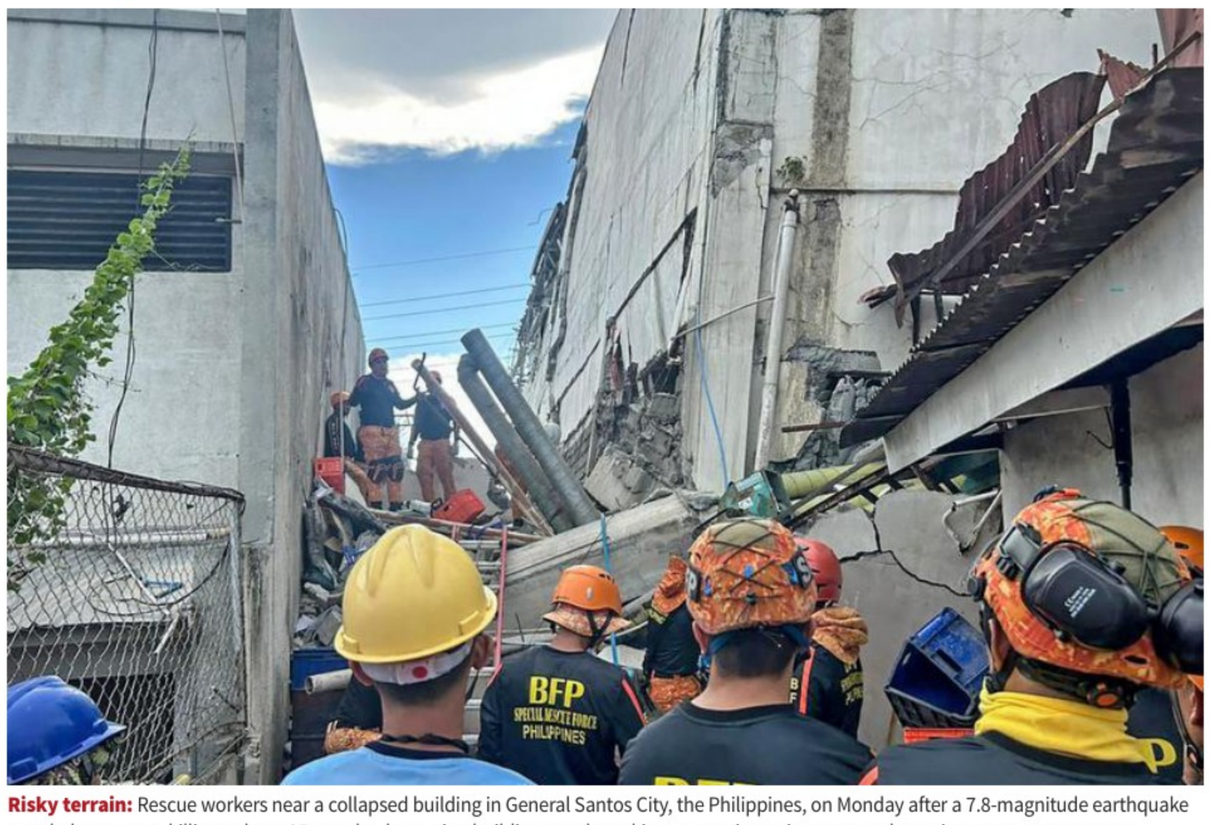

Risky terrain: Rescue workers near a collapsed building in General Santos City, the Philippines, on Monday after a 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck the country, killing at least 35 people, destroying buildings, and sparking tsunami warnings across the region. AFP (REPORT: PAGE 12)

INDIA bloc to take SIR complaints to CJI; seeks Pradhan's immediate exit

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) decided to write to the Chief Justice of India, flagging concerns over the special intensive revision (SIR) and the alleged "vote loot" at a meeting held here on Monday.

The bloc also demanded the immediate resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, stating that he had "presided over the betrayal of lakhs of youth who appeared for NEET and CBSE exams". It further called on the Centre to convene an all-party meeting on the "current critical economic situation".

Leaders of INDIA bloc parties address a press conference after meeting in New Delhi on Monday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge opened the meeting by underlining the Opposition's united pushback against the now-aborted delimitation legislation. "We demonstrated our unity very decisively in the Lok Sabha when we united to defeat the Modi government's mischievous Bills on delimitation," he said, adding that the alliance must build on that coordination. Former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, fresh from her party's defeat in the Assembly polls, detailed her allegations that the mandate had been stolen.

The Congress, which Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah described as the "glue" holding the bloc together, came under criticism for unceremoniously parting ways with the DMK after the Tamil Nadu polls. The Left parties questioned the Congress's aggressive campaign against the Left government in Kerala, particularly with allegations that it was colluding with the BJP. Several leaders also referred to the recent protest under the banner of the Cockroach Janta Party, asking whether it also reflected a growing disillusionment with the Opposition.

According to sources, the DMK will also be brought on board to sign the joint letter to the Chief Justice of India.

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Israel, Iran trade strikes, warn each other against escalation

Associated Press
DUBAI

Will respond to further hostile acts, says Iran; Israel talks of using great force against retaliation

Israel and Iran traded fire on Monday in their first attacks since the U.S. struck a ceasefire with the Islamic Republic in April.

The Iranian military said hours later that it was halting offensive operations as the renewed hostilities threatened to drag West Asia back into a full-scale war, and warned that further "aggression and hostile acts" by Israel and its supporters, including in southern Lebanon, would be met with "much more severe and crushing measures than before".

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said on Monday night that the military will continue to operate against Hezbollah in Lebanon, warning that any Iranian strikes in retaliation for Israeli attacks on Hezbollah, the Tehran-backed militant group in Lebanon, would be "met with great force".

Iranian state media reported at least 15 people were wounded after explosions sounded in Tehran and other cities.

Fresh advisory

Following the renewed exchange of fire, India on Monday urged its citizens to avoid all unnecessary travel to Israel and Iran, and asked its nationals in these countries to exercise utmost caution and stay vigilant.

While the Embassy of India in Iran advised Indians to exit the country by available means of transport, Indian nationals in Israel have been asked by the Embassy in Tel Aviv to "remain in proximity to designated shelters" and "to familiarise themselves with the nearest protected spaces in their area of residence or work."

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After over six decades, political career in public office all set to end for Deve Gowda

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

The former Prime Minister and Janata Dal (Secular) supremo H.D. Deve Gowda is set to end his more-than-six-decades-long political career in public office with his tenure as Rajya Sabha member coming to an end on June 25. While all eyes were on BJP's move, the saffron party late on Sunday night decided to nominate M. Nagaraja from its rank instead of the nonagenarian leader, its ally in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). Monday was the last date for filing nominations to Rajya Sabha elections.

With the retirement of the 93-year-old leader, known for his knowledge in agriculture and irrigation, especially the Cauvery river dispute, Parliament will now not have any former Prime Minister as a member.

With the retirement of H.D. Deve Gowda, Parliament will not have any former Prime Minister as a member.

The JD(S) was hoping that Mr. Gowda, who is respected by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will be nominated to the Rajya Sabha. Besides, with another Vokkaliga leader D.K. Shivakumar becoming Chief Minister, it was speculated that the BJP could offer its seat to Mr. Gowda as a counter weight in the optics of Vokkaliga politics that dominates the Old Mysuru region. However, the BJP State unit had insisted on fielding a party leader.

"This was not our elections because we did not have the numbers. We had not asked for it either. There is no question of disappointment. This was not our seat," said sources in JD(S). "We are not attaching too much of importance. This was a media speculation."

In the election to four Rajya Sabha seats set to be held on June 18, Congress has the numbers to win three and the BJP one. The JD(S) with 18 legislators does not have the numbers and was dependent on the BJP's decision.

On multiple occasions in the past, Mr. Gowda has said that he would remain in active politics till his end. The current stint was possible owing to the Congress's decision to support him in the 2020 Rajya Sabha polls that came after his defeat in Tumakuru Lok Sabha constituency during the 2019 general elections.

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'No ID, no entry' rule for pubs, bars

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Home Minister Priyank Kharge has called for strict age-verification measures to be enforced at pubs, breweries, bars, clubs, lounges, restaurants and other liquor-serving establishments across the State amid growing concern over alcohol and tobacco consumption among adolescents and young adults.

The measures include a 'No ID, No Entry' policy, mandatory verification of government-issued identity documents and action against establishments serving alcohol to minors.

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Over the next two weeks in Dambulla, up in the north of Sri Lanka, the 15-year-old will be squarely in the limelight, and in the crosshairs of the Sri Lanka and Afghanistan bowlers

The Sooryavanshi mania

GETTY IMAGES

R. Kaushik

One August afternoon in 2004, August 16 to be precise, a familiar name popped up on the cell phone screen, indicating an incoming call from a recently retired and highly celebrated Indian fast bowler. The said individual was trying his hand at commentary, and was in Nairobi for a triangular one-day series involving host nation Kenya, and the 'A' teams of India and Pakistan.

"Are you watching the match?" the old friend asked, excitedly, breathlessly. Under the mistaken and optimistic impression that he was seeking feedback on his commentary, one mumbled something under the breath when he piped up, "Turn on the TV. Watch this guy, he is something else."

'This guy' was a muscular, long-haired, earthy 23-year-old who had played for Bihar in 1999, and then for Jharkhand from the time the new State was carved out in November 2000. Five years of senior representative cricket had identified him as one for the future, though how much in the immediate future, one wasn't sure.

Then came the tri-series in Nairobi, where the right-hander batted at No. 3, and produced two bruising hundreds against Pakistan 'A', the first of them a day after India's Independence Day. Batting with a freedom that seemed to be a tribute to the nation attaining independence, he tore into a formidable attack that included Iftikhar Anjum, Riaz Afridi, Mansoor Amjad, Qaiser Abbas and Naved Latif, all of them Pakistan internationals at one stage or the other. In an innings punctuated by 10 fours and two sixes, 'this guy' scored 120 off 122 deliveries, putting on 207 for the second wicket with opener, fellow centurion and current India head coach Gautam Gambhir. It was a muscular exhibition of unfettered ball-striking, an exhibition that made us all forever fans.

He snatched the IPL 2026 Orange Cap with 776 runs at an otherworldly strike-rate of 237.30

As if to show that that wasn't a flash in the pan, he made a slightly more measured unbeaten 119 in the next league clash against Pakistan, and even though he produced just 15 in the final in which India conquered their arch-rivals, the legend of 'this guy' was inescapably, inevitably born.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni's decimation of Pakistan 'A' was a foretaste was what was to come. Grateful for the timely tip from the former India fast bowler, one was able to glimpse shades of the immense power and great maturity and game-awareness that nestled in his formidable frame.

That 'A' tri-series was a bit of a novelty in that it was beamed on live television, a luxury reserved only for internationals at the time (and even now, though T20 leagues too are a regular feature). Nearly 22 years on, another 'A' tri-series has fired the imagination even before a ball has been bowled, thanks to the presence in the Indian side of a mercurial 15-year-old who has already become a household name in the cricketing world.

Foregone conclusion

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's inclusion in the Tilak Varma-led squad for the tournament that includes the developmental sides of Sri Lanka and Afghanistan was almost a foregone conclusion, given his exploits for Rajasthan Royals in the IPL. Last season, his first, threw up a 35-ball century (the second fastest in the tournament's history), when the left-hander was but 14. This year, he snatched the Orange Cap with an extraordinary 776 runs at an otherworldly strike-rate of 237.30. Thrown in were two 15-ball half-centuries and a 36-ball hundred, as well as routine, nonchalant, irreverent decimation of the best fast bowlers in the world.

How can you keep such a special talent out of the international game, never mind his tender age? How can you deprive audiences at the ground and those watching on television the opportunity to soak in this young lad parading his wares on a global canvas, entertaining and enthralling and exhilarating with his fearless batsmanship that is a gift from above, sure, but which has also been honed through hours and hours of single-minded practice that has staggered far wizened men?

The clamour for his inclusion in the Indian T20 side reached a crescendo by the time Rajasthan crashed out of the tournament after losing to Shubman Gill's Gujarat Titans in Qualifier 2. It's not the worst idea to give the Indian Test and ODI skipper a first-hand reminder of the damage he can unleash, so Sooryavanshi donned his magic garb and lashed 96 off 47, with eight fours and seven sixes. It was another demonstration of his intelligence and street smartness, as much as his incandescent strokeplay. When he was dismissed in the 90s for the third time in four innings, the stadium felt his pain, even the opponents rued the four runs that got away. Such is the hold Sooryavanshi has on our collective consciousness.

Sooryavanshi has already, unfairly, been saddled with comparisons to the peerless Sachin Tendulkar. Imagine that. The same Sachin Tendulkar who finished his career with more than 34,000 international runs and 100 international tons. The same Sachin Tendulkar, who carried the Indian batting on his shoulders for 24 years, from his debut in 1989 to his last appearance in 2013. The same Sachin Tendulkar, who brought a nation to a standstill when he strode out, bat in hand, to espouse the quality and class of Indian batting with an authority that comes only to the most gifted.

One of the catalysts for this comparison is how both had already grabbed the imagination at a very young age. Tendulkar hit the headlines during the record 664-run stand with Vinod Kambli in the Harris Shield, continued to wow the discerning Mumbai cricketing fraternity with his genius (obvious even when he was 14) and celebrated his Ranji Trophy, Duleep Trophy and Irani Cup debuts with centuries in each of those competitions.

The clamour for Sooryavanshi's inclusion in the Indian T20 side reached a crescendo by the time Rajasthan crashed out of the IPL after losing to Gill's Gujarat in Qualifier 2

He shed tears of disappointment when he was overlooked for India's tour of the West Indies in early 1989 and relished the prospect of taking on Imran Khan, Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis when he was finally selected for India's first full series in Pakistan in more than a decade in November 1989.

He shooed off physio Ali Irani despite bleeding from a blow to the nose from Waqar in the final Test in Sialkot to conjure a series-saving half-century, and destroyed Abdul Qadir in an exhibition match, smashing the living daylights out of the famed leg-spinner. All through his career, Tendulkar carried the burden of expectations lightly; it helped that he was his worst critic and was seized by the need to meet his own expectations, not of the others because each of the 'others' had a different expectation of him.

Undimmed inner light

Ravaged by injuries – sesamoid bone, tennis elbow, dodgy back, protesting groin – but driven by an undimmed inner light, he conquered peaks that appeared insurmountable, all with an equanimity that singled him out as the greatest Indian cricketer of his, potentially of all, time.

How does one compare a 15-year-old who is yet to earn his first international cap with this certified champion, with one of the few on whom Bharat Ratna, the country's greatest civilian honour, has been conferred? Let's just let Sooryavanshi be. Let's let him enjoy himself, and let us enjoy him enjoying himself. Let's not live out our hopes and dreams vicariously through him because he already has enough to deal with and that is certain to only increase with time.

Over the next two weeks in Dambulla, up in the north of Sri Lanka, Sooryavanshi will be squarely in the limelight, and in the crosshairs of the Sri Lankan and Afghani bowlers. No one likes to be smashed around, but very, very few have received stinging punishment from a 15-year-old who is exceptionally respectful of his elders so long as he doesn't have a bat in his hands.

By now, bowlers of all quality know full well the perils of being even slightly off their game when they bowl to him. Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood, Pat Cummins and Kagiso Rabada and Jasprit Bumrah and Rashid Khan have all suffered at his hands. If the mere mortals are shuddering in anticipatory trepidation, it's not without good reason.

Sooryavanshi will be treated differently because of how young he is. Already, the BCCI has permitted his parents to travel with him, both to Sri Lanka and to the United Kingdom later in the month, when he will be a part of the senior Indian team for the first time. That the India board will cover the parents' travel and living expenses is a laudable initiative designed to send out the message that while there will be every effort to cash in on the goose that lays the golden eggs, it will be done so with empathy and understanding and not be driven purely by crass commercial greed and the lure of the greenbacks.

One isn't even sure if Sooryavanshi is aware of the magnitude of the fuss around him. The general belief is that he is all too aware, given how much more worldly-wise today's 15-year-olds are. He is too smart not to realise that he is a special talent who is being given the special, preferential kid-glove treatment that his age merits. He knows that it's just a matter of time before his bank balance surges, before the agents and the managers swarm him and before he is forced to shed his innocence and embrace wariness. The last two are the unfortunate but inevitable fallouts of courting attention and success this early, but neither Sooryavanshi nor the cricketing populace will have it any other way.

As the sporting world braces for a bouquet of high-octane action – the FIFA World Cup starts on June 11 and the Women's T20 World Cup gets underway the following day – it is impossible that in India, at the very least, and in several part of the cricketing globe, this relatively nondescript 'A' series will attract immense attention only for the presence of a generational talent.

One suspects that the Hazlewoods and the Cummins' might also park themselves in front of devices flashing live visuals, if only to see if the boy wonder subjects the relative 'lesser lights' to the same punishment he meted out to them during the IPL. There was 'this guy' in 2004. Now, there is 'this boy', a chronicled destroyer of reputations, egos and bowling figures. Single-handedly elevating the stature of an 'A' series that would otherwise have wallowed in anonymity but which has now gained a life of its own. Welcome to the world of Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, cricketing royalty in the making.

THE GIST

- Sooryavanshi has already, unfairly, been saddled with comparisons to the peerless Tendulkar. One of the catalysts for this comparison is how both had grabbed the imagination at a very young age
- As the sporting world braces for the FIFA World Cup and Women's T20 World Cup, the relatively nondescript 'A' assignment in Sri Lanka will attract immense attention because of the wunderkind
- By now, bowlers of all quality know full well the perils of being even slightly off their game when they bowl to the 15-year-old

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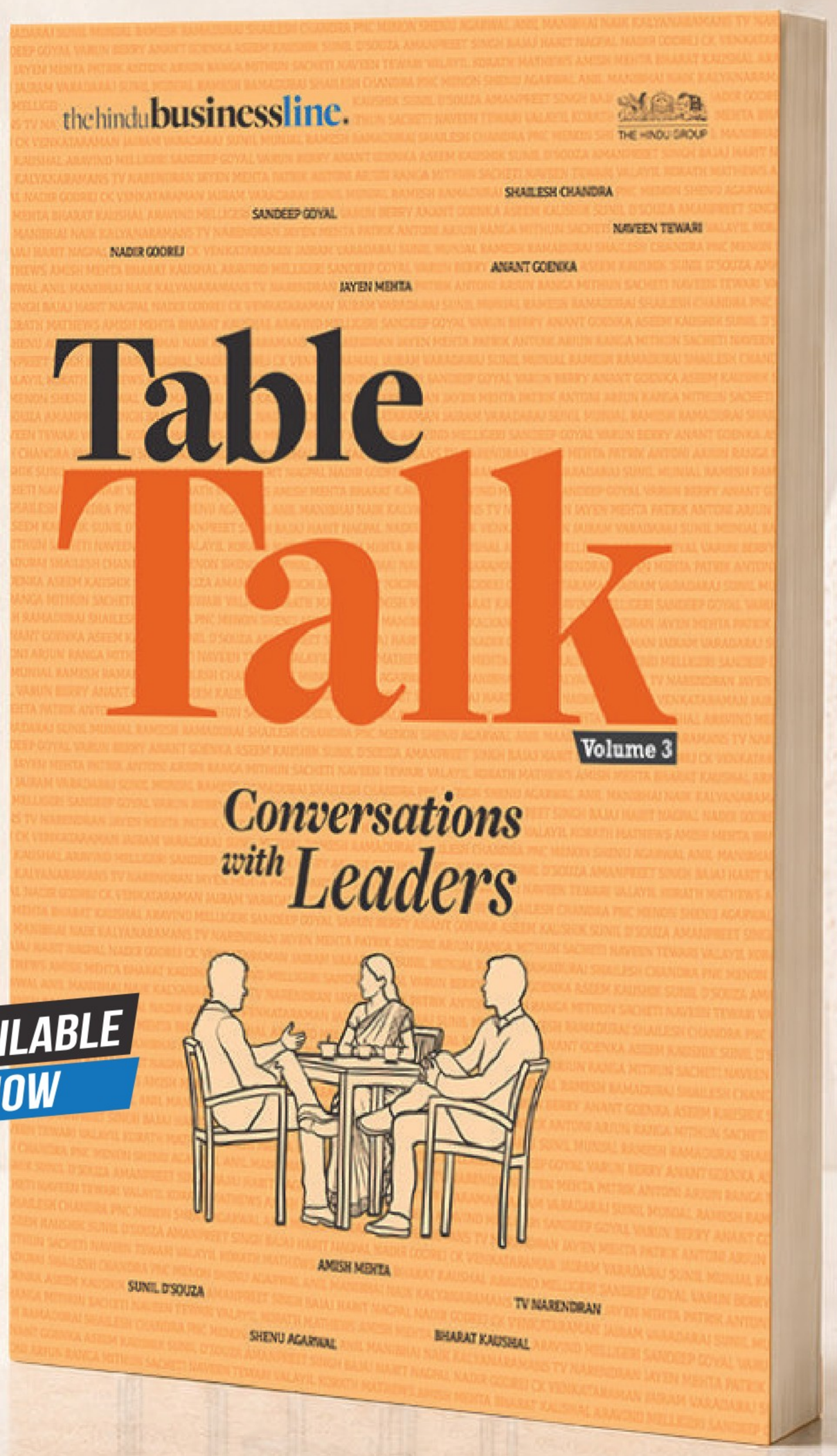

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No fee hike for medical courses this year in State

Of the medical seats available in private medical colleges, 40% are filled under government quota, 40% under private quota, 15% under NRI quota, and 5% under management quota

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Private medical colleges in the State have decided not to submit a proposal to the government for a fee hike for medical courses for 2026-27 due to inflation and other reasons. The government too has decided not to allow a fee hike for medical courses.

"Students and parents are facing problems due to price hikes and other reasons. We will not cause them further trouble by increasing the fee for medical courses. We have decided not to submit a request to the government for a fee hike for medical courses this year," said M.R. Jayaram, president, Karnataka Professional Colleges Foundation (KPCF).

In addition, this year, the Union government has ordered a re-examination of NEET 2026 due to a paper leak, which has resulted in anger across the country.

Fee structure for 2025-26 (in ₹)

Type of seats	Medical	Dental	BAMS	BHMS	BUMS	BNYS
Government colleges	64,350	49,350	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Government seats in private colleges	1,53,571	95,308	75,000	75,000	75,000	60,000
Private seats in private colleges	12,00,117	2,86,950 to 5,93,200	2,50,000	2,25,000	2,00,000	—
Private seats in deemed, private universities	22,40,000	6,54,650	—	—	—	—
NRI seats in private colleges	28,61,950 to 45,40,750	2,86,950 to 8,11,950	6,00,000	2,50,000	2,50,000	—
Management seats in private colleges	28,61,950 to 45,40,750	2,86,950 to 8,11,950	4,00,000	2,50,000	2,50,000	1,83,750

This year, the Union government has ordered a re-examination of NEET 2026 due to a paper leak, which has resulted in anger across the country. FILE PHOTO

Of the seats available in private medical colleges in the State, 40% are filled under the government quota, 40% under the private quota, 15% under the Non-Resident Indian (NRI) quota, and 5% under the management quota. For the year 2025-26, private medical college associations such as the KPCF, Karnataka Religious and Linguistic Minority Professional Colleges Association, and Association of Minority Professional Colleges in Karnataka had submitted a request to the government to increase the fees for government and private quota seats by 10% to 15%. However, the government rejected the request, continuing with the same fee amount as 2024-25. The government also did not allow a fee hike for management and NRI quota seats. However, private college associations, which did not agree to this, requested the government not to raise an objection to the increase. The government allowed the increase, but mandated that the fee could not exceed ₹45 lakh. As a result, last year, private medical colleges had increased the fees of management and NRI quota seats from a minimum of ₹1 lakh to a maximum of ₹6 lakh.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Sharan Prakash Patil, Minister for Medical Education, said, "So far, no private medical college organisation has submitted a proposal to the government regarding a fee hike for medical courses. If a proposal is submitted, the request will be rejected. It has been decided to not increase the fees of medical courses, including government and private medical colleges, for the year 2026-27."

He further stated that this year it has been decided to reserve 15% of medical seats in government medical colleges as NRI quota seats. "A decision in this regard will be taken in the State Cabinet soon and implemented," he added.

Southwest monsoon advances; heavy rains forecast in many districts till June 11

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

For Bengaluru, the forecast states that there will generally be cloudy sky, light to moderate rain with sustained wind. SUDHAKARA JAIN

With the southwest monsoon further advancing in the State, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast heavy rainfall till June 11 and has declared yellow alert in many districts in coastal, north and south interior Karnataka.

IMD Scientist C.S. Patil on Monday said that heavy rainfall is likely to occur over a few places over Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Uttara Kannada districts for which a yellow alert has been issued till June 11.

Likewise, heavy rains have been forecast in Belagavi, Dharwad, Haveri, Gadag, Shivamogga, Davangere, Chikkamagaluru, Hassan and Kodagu districts, and in some places very heavy rainfall till June 11 and an yellow alert has been issued.

Bengaluru and its neighbourhood would receive light to moderate rainfall till June 11. For Bengaluru, the forecast stated that there would generally be cloudy sky, light to moderate rains with sustained wind. The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be around 29°C and 21°C respectively.

The IMD said that the southwest monsoon was normal over coastal Karnataka and south interior Karnataka. "Rainfall occurred at most places over coastal Karnataka, at many places over north interior Karnataka and at a few places over south interior Karnataka," the IMD said.

The IMD added that the southwest monsoon has further advanced into some more parts of west-central and east-central Arabian Sea, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, and some parts of Telangana, on Monday.

"Conditions are favourable for further advance of southwest monsoon into some more parts of central Arabian Sea, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and the remaining parts of Tamil Nadu and southwest Bay of Bengal," the IMD added.

Student killed, another injured in road accident

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 19-year-old student was killed and his friend sustained serious injuries after a speeding truck allegedly rammed the motorcycle they were riding near the NICE Junction at Gottigere on Bannerghatta Road on Monday.

The victim has been identified as Chirag. The injured, Inchara, is undergoing treatment in the intensive care unit (ICU) of a private hospital.

According to the police, the two students of a private college were riding towards Jigani for lunch during their college break when the truck, travelling in the same direction, allegedly knocked down their motorcycle near the junction.

Passers-by rushed the victims to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared Chirag dead on arrival.

Driver flees

The truck driver abandoned the vehicle at the scene and fled after the accident. The Hulimavu Traffic Police reached the spot, cleared the traffic congestion, and seized the truck.

A case of hit-and-run has been registered, and efforts are under way to trace the absconding driver.

Two parked cars set on fire in Malleswaram

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two vehicles that had been seized by the police and parked on a footpath outside the residence of a rowdy-sheeter in Malleswaram were set ablaze by unidentified persons late on Wednesday night.

The police have launched a probe to identify the miscreants. According to the complaint filed by head constable Mahantesh Matad of the Malleswaram Police Station, the incident occurred near Metro Pillars 167 and 168 on R.P. Road in M.D. Block on June 4 around 11.40 p.m.

Routine surveillance

Earlier in the night, the police patrol team visited the residence of rowdy-sheeter Kumaresh as part of routine surveillance to verify his presence at home. Shortly after the team returned, information was received that two vehicles parked on the footpath near the house were on fire.

The police rushed to the spot and found two cars engulfed in flames. The Fire and Emergency Services personnel were alerted, and the blaze was extinguished.

Investigators said both vehicles were seized in previous cases and were parked on the roadside near Kumaresh's residence.

The loss is estimated to be over ₹3 lakh. The police suspect the vehicles were deliberately set on fire. A case has been registered. No arrests have been made so far. Further investigation is under way to ascertain the motive.

AICC member Suraj Hegde passes away

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

All India Congress Committee (AICC) secretary and vice-chairman of Guarantee Implementation Committee Suraj Hegde passed away late on Sunday night due to a cardiac arrest. He was the vice-president of Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee and in charge of the Indian Youth Congress. His grandfather and former Chief Minister D. Devaraj Urs was known for his land reforms and bringing out many young leaders among the Backward Classes.

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, and Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar were among other leaders who offered their condolences.

Poll battle among rich for Legislative Council

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Govindaraju of JD(S) has emerged as the richest candidate in fray

It will be an electoral battle among the rich for the Legislative Council. Janata Dal (Secular) candidate Govindaraju has emerged as the richest candidate in fray in the election to seven Legislative Council seats with total assets of ₹173.69 crore, including movable assets worth ₹58.29 crore. He declared liabilities of ₹30.35 crore. His rival Vinay Karthik, grandson of the late Congress leader Sahukar Chennaiah, has declared assets worth ₹106.96 crore, including movable assets worth ₹49.95 crore. He has liabilities of ₹49.05 crore.

Congress candidate P.V. Mohan has declared assets worth ₹75.50 lakh, including ₹15.50 lakh movable assets and declared liability of ₹13 lakh.

BJP candidate for Rajya Sabha M. Nagaraja has declared assets worth ₹15.89 crore, including movable assets worth ₹4.61 crore and liabilities of ₹3.25 crore.

Lokayukta nabs legal metrology officer

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Lokayukta officials on Monday caught an Assistant Controller of Legal Metrology red-handed while he was allegedly accepting a bribe from a businessman for clearing a pending licence application. The complainant, Kiran R.M., alleged that Vanishree M.S., Assistant Controller of Legal Metrology, demanded a bribe to approve a packaging licence related to mobile accessories.

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No. GESCOM/SEE (Procurement)/EE/AEE/26-27/22090-98 Date:08.06.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPP PORTAL MODE ONLY)

PC-1493: Supply of Hi-Visibility Reflective Rain Wear as per GESCOM Specifications **(Tender Amount: Rs. 113.96 Lakhs)**
Dates: Bid documents available at KPP Portal: on or after **11.06.2026.** Last Date for Bid submission, Opening of Technical Bid and opening of price Bid: As per KPP Portal.
Bidder Qualifying Requirements: As per tender documents: For additional information Contact: Superintending Engineer El., Procurement, Corporate Office, GESCOM, Kalaburagi-585102. Mobile: 94484 99997. Web Site Address: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For information about the KPP portal, contact the helpline at +91 – 8046010000/8068948777/ 9240214000/ 9240214001 or e-mail address: **support@eprochelpdesk.com**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Procurement), GESCOM, Corporate Office, Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/195/KSMC&A/2026-27

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No.: Y/E.29/2026-27/27
Dated: 02.06.2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Mysuru: Augmentation of Mechanised Laundry from 3.5 Ton to 7 ton / Day capacity.	Rs. 1,00,42,730.5/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 23.06.2026**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/ General/Mysuru
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CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Mihir Naren,** aged 20 years, S/o Narendra Babu S, residing at No. D Hosahalli, VTC Devangundi, Hosakote, Bangalore Rural – 560067, hereby declare that my name has been wrongly mentioned as **"Mihir Narendra"** in my passport and that my correct name is **"Mihir Naren,"** and henceforth I shall be known as **Mihir Naren** for all official purposes vide affidavit dated 06/06/2026 attested by Notary K.V. Jaganath Reddy, Bangalore.

TOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CHITTAGUPPA DIST. BIDAR

No:TMC/SWM/WORKS/CR- /2025-26 Dated: 08.06.202

TENDER NOTIFICATION

1) Name of work (DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT55354/CALL-3), 2) Estimated cost As per KPPP Portal, 3) Eligibility of Agency / Consultant As per KPPP Portal, 4) EMD amount As per KPPP Portal, 6) Last date for submission of tender **24.06.2026 upto 04.30 PM,** 7) Technical bid opening **25.06.2026 at 5:00 PM,** 8) Address for communication Chief Officer, Town Municipal Council, Chitguppa, Pin code 585412, Email : itstaff_ulb_Chittguppa@yahoo.com 08483-277536 & 277122, 9)Website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Chief Officer, Town Municipal Council, Chitguppa,

DIPR/Bidar/52/KSMC&A/2026-27

PUBLIC NOTICE

The State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Karnataka, constituted by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF & CC), Government of India, vide its letter No. SEIAA 72 CON 2026 Dated 28.04.2026has accordance to **M/s.Assetz Value Homes East Pvt. Ltd.,** for Development of Residential apartment and Commercial Project at Sy No.165/5, 166, 167/2, 167/3, 167/4, 167/5, 168/1, 168/2, 168/3, 168/4,169/1, 169/2, 169/3, 169/4, 170/1, 170/2, 170/3, 170/4, 170/5, 171/1, 171/2, 171/3, 171/4, 171/5, 171/6, 171/7, 172/1, 172/2, 172/3, 172/4, 173/1, 173/2, 173/3, 173/4, 174/1, 174/2, 174/3, 174/4, 175/1, 175/2, 175/3, 175/4, 175/5, 175/6, 176, 177/1, 177/2, 177/3, 178/1, 178/2, 178/3, 178/4, 178/5, 179/1, 179/2, 179/3, 179/4, 179/5, 180/1, 180/2, 180/3, 180/4, 180/5, 180/6, 183/1, 183/2, 183/3, 183/4, 241/1, 241/2, 241/3, 241/4, 241/5, 242/1, 242/2, 242/3, 242/4, 242/5, 243/1, 243/2, 243/3, 243/4, 243/5, 244/1, 244/2, 245/1, 245/2, 245/3, 245/4, 245/5, 245/6, 246/1, 246/2, 246/3, 246/4, 246/5, 246/6, 247/1, 247/2, 247/3 of Kalkere Village, KR Puram Hoblli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District, as per the applicable provisions of EIA notification, 2006 and amended thereafter.
Copy of the Clearance letter is available with the SEIAA office and may also be seen on the website of the MOEF & CC at **https://parivesh.nic.in.**
This Public Notice is issued in compliance with the conditions laid down in the above Environmental Clearance. **Sd/-**

CBIC TUMAKURU INDUSTRIAL TOWNSHIP LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Government of India and Government of Karnataka)
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CBIC TITL

No:CBICTITL/ENGG/ETND-DPR-01/664/2026-27 **Date:08-06-2026**

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

CBIC-TITL invites tender from reputed consultants/firms under two cover bid system having an office at Bengaluru with vast experience and proven record of similar nature of work for project mentioned below:-

Name of the work: Providing Consultancy Services for Survey, Investigation, Design, Estimate and Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Water Supply Scheme from Vanivilas Sagara Dam to Tumakuru Industrial Township (CBIC) via Metikurke Industrial Area and Sira Industrial Area. (2nd Call)

- Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: **20-06-2026** upto **4:00** pm.

Applicants May download bidding documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Engineer-In-Chief CBIC-TITL

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, TRISHLA Bohra (Old Name), R/o. H.NO. 11-5-52, near Union Bank, Jain Mohalla Bresthwarpet, Raichur-584101 I have changed my name as Trishla Jain (New Name) Vide affidavit, Date:29-05-2026, Sworn before Notary by K.M.Jai Neelakant Rao

I, Pinky Suresh Verpe W/O, Praveen Sapkal R/o C R Silverwoods Apartment, Flat 410, B Chansandra Main Road, Kasturi Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560043, have changed my name to Shreya Praveen Sapkal.

I, P. BADRISH alias BADRISH.P, resident of NO. 3, D–301, STERLING TERRACES, 100 FT RING ROAD, BANASHANKARI 3RD STAGE, BANGALORE–560085, have changed my Name from P.BADRISH alias BADRISH.P, to BADRISH PADMANABHA RAO vide Affidavit dated 05–06– 2026 at Bangalore

I, RAKHI Rajeshkumar Jain W/o Rajesh Kumar Jain R/at:G002 Meadow in The Sun inner Spaces Owners Court West Kasavanahalli, Bangalore-560035 have changed my name from Rakhi Rajeshkumar Jain to Rakhi Rajesh Jain vide affidavit dated 08-06-2026 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, Bengaluru.

I, RAJESHKUMAR Ralduram Jain C/o Raldu Ram Jain R/at: G002 Meadow in The Sun inner Spaces Owners Court West Kasavanahalli, Bangalore-560035 have changed my name from Rajeshkumar Ralduram Jain to Rajesh Kumar Jain vide affidavit dated 08-06-2026 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, Bengaluru.

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‘Amplifying’ random numbers brings a breakthrough in digital security

Creating a truly unguessable password is difficult as even the best computers leave behind subtle, predictable patterns; by tapping into the power of quantum physics, scientists have now found a way to turn mostly random data into flawless security keys that are practically impossible to predict

Vasudevan Mukunth
CHENNAI

Digital security has an Achilles heel: the numbers it uses for encryption are rarely as random as they seem. IMAGE CREATED WITH AI

Most digital security relies today on random numbers to generate cryptographic keys. Think of a cryptographic key like a long, complex password. If that password is truly random, an attacker has to guess every possible combination. But if the ‘random’ process used to make that password has a pattern, the attacker can use that pattern to skip billions of guesses.

Digital security has an Achilles’s heel: the numbers it uses for encryption are rarely as random as they seem. But in a study published in *Nature*, researchers at ETH Zürich have demonstrated a new solution called randomness amplification, where they used quantum physics to turn predictable bits of data into certifiably perfect randomness.

A note from the university said the researchers had effectively “generated certified perfect randomness for the first time”.

Creating true randomness is actually really difficult. Most random number generators (RNGs) produce bits with a small bias. Say you’re flipping a coin that lands on ‘heads’ 51% of the time instead of 50%. That 1% difference is a bias.

Santha-Vazirani limit

In 1986, computer science researchers Miklós Santha and Umesh Vazirani showed that a classical computer cannot upgrade a weakly random source into a perfectly random one. Put another way, if a source of random numbers is predictable even in a small way, classical post-processing alone could never eliminate it. So if you give a classical computer a biased coin, any data it produces based on that coil will remain just as biased and predictable, no matter how much the computer tries to improve on the input. This is why even high-end random number generators suffer from experimental imperfections – like heat or electronic noise – that make their outcomes slightly biased, and thus predictable to an advanced attacker.

“Even modern random number generators, which are based on quantum mechanical effects like the reflection of photons from beam splitters, are not entirely immune to such a systematic error or bias,” Andreas Wallraff, one of the study’s lead investigators and and Laboratory for Solid-State Physics professor, said in the note.

Over the last two decades, theoretical work has suggested that quantum physics may provide a workaround. In fact, in 2012, Roger Colbeck and Renato Renner – who is one of the authors of the new study – showed in theory that quantum physics could do it.

The ETH Zürich team achieved it using a Bell test, a physics experiment designed to prove a phenomenon called quantum entanglement. Entanglement is a state where two quantum particles – like atoms or photons – become linked such that a measurement performed on one particle instantly affects the other, no matter how far apart they are.

In a Bell test, two entangled particles are separated and measured. If the particles answer in a particular highly correlated way, it will show that the answers were not secretly decided in advance. In other words, the test will prove the universe itself did not know the answer until the moment the measurement happened.

Now, in quantum physics, the act of measuring something creates new information that wasn’t there before. For example, each of the two particles will be in a superposition of multiple states. When you measure one, it will collapse into one particular state – and so will the other entangled particle. This ‘final’ state is the new information.

Because this information is born at the exact instant of measurement, it is impossible for anyone to have known the outcome in advance. In the work, the team used this information as an additional source of randomness.

Quantum advantage

In their experiment, the team members entangled two particles, then placed them 30 m apart. This distance made sure the particles could not ‘cheat’ by communicating their ‘final’ states to each other at the speed of light.

Next, they used random biased bits to decide how to measure each particle. Then, with the measurement outcomes, they calculated the Bell violation score – a measure of how strongly the particles were entangled, and thus how clueless the universe might have been about the measurement outcomes. The score was 2.271.

This was above the classical limit of 2, meaning quantum physics rather than classical physics was in play. (Entanglement is a purely quantum phenomenon.)

“It is a clean instance of quantum advantage: a task quantum physics performs that classical physics provably cannot,” Marin Ivezic, founder of research-driven consulting firm Applied Quantum, wrote on his site.

However, the highest score quantum physics allows is 2.82. And the closer an experiment gets to this value, the stronger the evidence that the particles are behaving according to quantum physics alone rather than also being influenced by bias. In a lab, stray heat, microscopic timing errors, and other subtle factors can create noise that biases the particles in small ways. And an attacker who understands the specific noise in a setup might notice that when the system glitches, it tends to produce a ‘1’ more often than a ‘0’, and use that to their advantage.

The researchers now had two resources: the original random biased bits and the new outcomes from the Bell test. They combined both using a mathematical tool called a two-source extractor. Its purpose is to blend two independent strings of data. Independent means knowing anything about String 1 must reveal nothing about String 2, and vice versa.

The extractor is designed so that if an attacker has a slight advantage in predicting String 1 and a slight advantage in predicting String 2, they have zero advantage in predicting the combination. The extractor achieves this by cancelling the strings’ individual biases out as long as they are independent.

In their tests, the researchers worked with 5.3 billion random biased bits and 2.6 billion bits of information from the measurements.

They combined them in 1.3 billion trials, which they ran at 50,000 times per second over nine hours. At the end of each trial, the extractor output was 45 million bits – all purely random. The rest got pruned away because they were biased information or noise.

“The resulting sequence of zeros and ones is now really perfectly random, and we can even certify that,” Prof. Renner, a professor at the Institute for Theoretical Physics at ETH Zürich, said in the note. The certificate is the Bell test score.

“The technical improvements allowed us, for the first time, to create random numbers that will remain perfectly random for all eternity – no matter what

In quantum physics, the act of measuring something creates new information that wasn’t there before; because this information is born at the exact instant of measurement, it is impossible for anyone to have known the outcome in advance, becoming an additional source of randomness

analytical methods are used to assess their randomness,” Prof. Renner added.

The team also said their protocol to generate purely random numbers is device-independent – a gold standard in security that means even if you don’t trust the person who built the hardware, even if you don’t fully understand how the machine works, you can trust the output to be random.

In physics, it is mathematically impossible for a classical theory to score higher than 2 on a Bell test. By scoring 2.271 on the test, then, the researchers’ setup proved it was producing random quantum information.

That said, according to the team’s security analysis, the protocol has a failure probability of one in a trillion, similar to flipping a coin and getting ‘heads’ 40 times in a row. This is because of the number of tests, 1.3 billion. If they had conducted several billion more, the researchers may have reduced the failure rate to one in a quadrillion or quintillion. It is mathematically impossible to reach 100%.

In fact, the researchers had chosen one in a trillion as their finish line. And to reach that level of certainty with a score of 2.271, they had to discard a large amount of data in the end. If their score had been higher, they could have reached the same failure rate while keeping much more of the data.

While one in a trillion suffices for practical applications, the experiment’s apparatus can’t yet replace conventional random-number generators. First, it is complex and resource-intensive. Its randomness output is modest compared to commercial systems: around 1,400 bits per second versus 1 billion bits per second. It is also information-wise inefficient in that for every 119 “almost perfectly random” bits it consumed, it produced 1 “certified random” bit – whereas commercial generators produce a very large number of “almost perfectly random” bits from just one “somewhat random” bit.

But while the new protocol is slower and less efficient, it can produce randomness of a higher quality. That is, the work establishes that randomness can be amplified in lab conditions, that too in a device-independent way. It also proves the Santha-Wazirani limit can be broken by quantum physics.

Beacon of randomness

“My understanding is that the main advance here is not device-independent random-number generation *per se*. That has already been demonstrated using … Bell tests,” Urbasi Sinha, head of the Quantum Information and Computing lab at the Raman Research Institute, Bengaluru, told *The Hindu*. “The new element is the experimental demonstration of device-independent randomness amplification: starting with a weak, imperfect source of randomness and using quantum correlations to certify output bits that are unbiased under the stated model.”

“This is significant because practical quantum random-number generators are never ideal, and in our own work on QRNGs and semi-device-independent certification, we have also emphasised that the real issue is not whether a bit string passes statistical tests but whether its unpredictability can be certified from clearly stated physical assumptions,” she added.

“The important caveat is that the guarantee here is conditional on the Santha-Vazirani weak-source model, the claimed bias bound on the input randomness, the… Bell-test implementation, and the validity of the extractor/security analysis.”

The researchers proposed one application: a public randomness beacon – a service that broadcasts certified random bits for uses ranging from financial transactions and blockchain protocols to military encryption. The U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology already runs a service where it releases 512 random bits every 60 seconds on its website. They are used in lotteries, to assign juries, to sample voting machines, and for research.

That said, Mr. Ivezic cautioned in his write-up that while certifiable randomness could help security today, it will not help protect encrypted information against attacks by future quantum computers.

“Better randomness was never the answer to that problem,” he wrote; “migrating to post-quantum algorithms is.” India recently took its very first steps on this front.

(mukunth.v@thehindu.co.in)

Mustard is the most vital crop to meet India’s deficit of edible oils. FILE PHOTO

New mustard hybrids need diverse farming plans

Vasudevan Mukunth

In the 2026-27 rabi sowing season, from October to April, Indian farmers are set to begin the wide-scale cultivation of imidazolinone-resistant (IMI-resistant) mustard hybrids. These hybrids are designed to overcome a parasitic weed called Orobanche, a major hurdle in oilseed production.

India has long grappled with an edible oils deficit. In 2024-25, the country imported around 16 million tonnes at about ₹1.6 lakh crore. Mustard is the most vital oilseed crop to meet this demand, especially in the arid environments of North India. However, its yields have been suppressed throughout the year by Orobanche, a destructive root parasite that attaches to the mustard plant and drains it of water and nutrients. (It has more recently been called Phelipanche.)

The new IMI-resistant hybrids are a technological solution to this problem. Unlike genetically modified (GM) crops, these hybrids were developed in a process called mutation breeding – where scientists breed crops to preserve certain natural mutations. The process is based on an enzyme called acetolactate synthase (ALS), which is essential for plant growth. Normal mustard plants are killed by IMI herbicides because the herbicides inhibit ALS.

In the new IMI-resistant hybrids, a single change in the plant’s DNA rendered the ALS enzyme resistant to the herbicide, freeing farmers to spray IMI herbicides directly over the field, killing only the weeds. This strategy is particularly effective against Orobanche because, as the herbicide moves through the soil and the plant, it strikes the parasite where manual weeding can’t reach.

Farmers have welcomed these hybrids because they don’t increase the demand for labour exactly when it might be unavailable, especially in the narrow window when weeding is necessary, and the research community because it protects oilseeds.

However, some experts have urged caution over their long-term use. In a commentary recently published in the journal *Current Science*, Deepak Pental, a leading geneticist at the University of Delhi, acknowledged the immediate benefits but also said the technology must be managed with care to prevent the weeds from evolving their own resistance.

Prof. Pental explained that if farmers rely on only one type of herbicide year after year, the “strong directional selection” will lead to “the emergence of resistant or less susceptible weed populations, the erosion of herbicide efficacy, and ultimately the strategic failure of the production system built around that chemistry”.

To that end, he wrote that the introduction of these new crops should not be viewed as a simple trade-off, where chemicals merely replace manual labour, but as a “challenge” that requires a variety of weed-control methods. Specifically, for the technology to remain viable for more than a few years, it must be part of a broader, more diverse farming strategy that includes rotating crops, using different types of herbicides with various modes of action, and continuing to use manual weeding to remove any weeds that survive the chemical spray. “A single herbicide mode of action cannot be the foundation of a sustainable weed management strategy in any agriculture,” Prof. Pental wrote.

As India rolls out IMI-resistant mustard this season, the new challenge for the agricultural enterprise will be to ensure these powerful new tools become part of a “durable, and evolutionarily informed” programme rather than a quick fix.

For feedback and suggestions
for ‘Science’, please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject ‘Daily page’

CCB cracks down on rowdies, job fraud accused

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) has arrested two rowdy-sheeters, apprehended a long-absconding offender wanted in multiple criminal cases, and arrested a father-daughter duo accused of cheating job seekers of over ₹5.3 crore in separate operations across Bengaluru.

Acting on intelligence that several rowdy elements were allegedly stockpiling deadly weapons to commit crimes, officers of the CCB's Organised Crime Wing (East) conducted surprise raids on the residences of more than 10 rowdy-sheeters on Saturday.

During the operation, the police arrested two absconding rowdy-sheeters identified as Puneeth S.V. and Shivakumar alias Auto Shiva. The accused have been handed over to the Varthur police for further legal action. No weapons were recovered during the raids.

In another operation, the CCB arrested Shahid Pasha, a rowdy-sheeter from the K.G. Halli Police Station limits, who had allegedly been evading court proceedings and arrest warrants for nearly eight years. Based on a tip-off received on June 5, the CCB officers traced the accused to Vinobanagar and apprehended him.

He had reportedly failed to appear before courts in at least three cases. He was subsequently handed over to the K.G. Halli Police Station.

Father-daughter duo

The CCB also arrested a woman and her father for allegedly cheating more than 40 job aspirants by falsely promising government jobs in various Union and State government departments.

According to a complaint registered on November 17, 2025, the accused allegedly claimed to have close contact with senior government officials and political leaders, and assured employment in departments such as Railways, Income Tax, Health, Social Welfare and other government agencies.

Investigators said the duo collected more than ₹5.30 crore from job seekers.

The accused were arrested on June 4.

Garbage, leachate and congestion: The cost of city's lack of transfer stations

Currently, only three places have dedicated facilities: Adugodi, Chamarajpet, and Sarvajnanagar

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BBMP workers shifting garbage from collecting vehicle to the garbage tipper at Russell Market in Bengaluru on Monday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Bengaluru's lack of an effective waste management system can be witnessed every day on the city's streets, not only through the rising number of black spots, but also through the unscientific garbage logistics, which have been a major inconvenience to commuters for years.

If you are a daily commuter on Siddapura Road in the southern part of the city, just before the road converges with Marigowda Road, a strong stench greets you. Then, you see a heap of garbage before having to endure the traffic amid the foul smell. The stench is a result of leachate overflowing onto the road during the transfer process.

Typically, once waste is collected by smaller garbage collection tippers, it is subsequently offloaded into large compactor vehicles. Successive administrations have historically failed to establish dedicated spaces for such garbage transfers. Currently, only three places have dedicated facilities: Adugodi, Chamarajpet, and Sarvajnanagar.

Across the rest of the city, the exercise is carried out on the streets, leading to the overflow of leachate onto roads, stench from the spillage, and micro-level congestion. Even busy stretches such as M.G. Road, Bannerghatta Road, and HAL Road, among others, witness the same situation.

GARBAGE CRISIS DEEPENS

Daily misery

Sourabh, a daily commuter on Victoria Road near Ashok Nagar, said the transfer is carried out right at the Lower Agaram junction, and the smell is unbearable.

"If we are at the front of the queue at the signal, then for two whole minutes we have to bear the smell. The worst part is that it even affects traffic," he said.

On the link road connecting St. Mark's Road and M.G. Road, commuters regularly encounter a compactor taking loads from small tippers. On hot summer days, when the leachate dries up, the entire stretch carries an unbearable smell.

Meera, a resident of Malleshpalya, also said navigating the main road – the gateway to numerous residential areas and schools – is an arduous task as vehicles, including BMTC buses, get stuck due to the garbage transfer on the road. "Shops that sell food and groceries have also shifted to the inner roads due to this," she said.

A senior traffic official noted that the exercise is a serious contributor to micro-level congestion at many places across the city. "As there will be not just one vehicle but several tippers lined up behind it, the stretch automatically witnesses slow-moving traffic. The ripple effect then extends to major roads," the officer said.

However, a major concern, as Kavitha Gowda, a resident of Thindlu, points out, is the presence of transfer spots on residential streets. "Many people walk on the double road where the transfer happens. It is an inconvenience to pedestrians and residents alike, who have to endure the foul smell throughout the day," she said.

(This is the second part in the series on the deepening garbage crisis in the city.)

BSWML says roadside waste transfers to be done within a year

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru currently has 5,200 garbage tippers, which means a single transfer station will have to handle around 173 tippers. SUDHAKARA JAIN

After years of negligence, the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) has now begun work on establishing transfer stations in all Assembly constituencies. While three are already operational, civic works at four more stations are nearing completion, according to documents accessed by *The Hindu*.

Karee Gowda, Chief Executive Officer of BSWML, said that land has been identified at 23 locations and work would begin soon. The documents show that construction is set to commence at 15 locations, while at the remaining eight sites, land is yet to be taken into possession from the original owners.

"We are planning to operationalise all the stations within the span of a year. A buffer of one or two months can be considered," Mr. Gowda told *The Hindu*.

The documents show that funding is being provided through Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 as well as by the civic corporations. A few stations will also receive funds from the 15th Finance Commission's NCAP allocation.

The documents further show that the identified sites range from 0.8 to 1.2 acres in size. In north Bengaluru, one of the identified locations near Attur spans about four acres. Each station is likely to have the capacity to handle 200 to 250 tonnes of waste every day.

However, V. Ramprasad, a solid waste management expert, argued that the proposed capacity would not be sufficient to handle Bengaluru's waste. "For an entire Assembly constituency, which may comprise 10 to 13 wards, one transfer station will not be enough. The BSWML has to undertake micro-level planning and establish smaller centres to make the system effective," he said.

Bengaluru currently has 5,200 garbage tippers, which means a single transfer station will have to handle around 173 tippers. These tippers also make more than one collection round each day. Therefore, the proposed stations will have to be supported by an additional plan of action, Mr. Ramprasad said.

Marks card racket busted

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Special Enquiry Wing of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) has registered a case against Raja Reddy, founder of Digital Distance Education Mission (DDEM) at Koramangala, and his associates for allegedly running a fake marks card racket, and cheating students by promising admission to various colleges.

According to a complaint, the accused allegedly collected mobile numbers of high school dropouts, and contacted them with offers of admission to professional courses.

Investigators said the accused targeted students who had failed or not completed education. They allegedly collected amounts ranging from ₹30,000 to ₹50,000 from students by assuring college admissions.

The complaint states that one of the accused allegedly created forged marks cards and educational records. These fake documents were then reportedly sent to students to facilitate admissions.

CORRIGENDUM

With reference to the L&T AGM advertisement published on 6 June 2026, it is clarified that, in the Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft programme, L&T executed its scope in a contracted role for Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), which is the design authority for the project.

We regret any unintended ambiguity and confusion caused.

Larsen & Toubro Limited

HC allows BWSSB to lay sewer through private properties

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has upheld the constitutional validity of the provisions of the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) Act, 1964, which enables the BWSSB to place and maintain sewer over, under, along or across any immovable property, including private ones, without acquisition of the land.

Referring to Section 39 (power to lay mains), 76 (buildings and private streets not to be erected or constructed over sewers without permission) and 77 (rights of user of property for sewers), the court said that these "provisions constitute a constitutionally valid statutory framework creating a limited statutory right of user, accompanied by procedural and compensatory safeguards". Justice Suraj Govindaraj passed the order while partly allowing the petitions filed by landowners, T.N. Chandrashekar Gowda, Jethronica and others, who had challenged the use of their lands for laying sewer by the BWSSB.

Pointing out that the provisions of the Act requires the BWSSB to cause as little damage as possible and mandates full compensation for damage caused, the court said that "the statutory scheme, therefore, does not contemplate unrestricted occupation or appropriation of land...".

However, the court made it clear the constitutional validity of these provisions are sustained on the understanding that safeguards provided in the Act are applied meaningfully and that compensation remains real and responsive to the actual prejudice suffered by affected landowners.

The court clarified that the statutory right of user under Section 77, even if it causes ongoing restrictions or inconvenience to the owner, does not automatically lead to compulsory acquisition of property requiring acquisition proceedings and market-value compensation under the 2013 Act in every case, as right granted to the BWSSB is only a limited right of use, not a transfer of ownership.

Rejecting plea

Meanwhile, the court asked the BWSSB to assess, determine and pay compensation, if any, payable to the respective petitioners for actual damage, whether permanent or temporary while rejecting plea for removal of sewer from their private lands.

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, JUN. 09	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:45
RISE 00:43	SET 13:04
WEDNESDAY, JUN. 10	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:45
RISE 01:22	SET 13:57
THURSDAY, JUN. 11	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:46
RISE 02:03	SET 14:53

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	15
Mysuru	31	20
Bengaluru	30	21

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be slight warm. Night will be pleasant. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

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THE HINDU
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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

India's account surplus in the fourth quarter of FY26

7.1 in $ billion. The surplus stood at $13.7 billion, or 1.4% of GDP, in the fourth quarter of 2024-25. However, for the entire fiscal year, the current account deficit stood at $25.2 billion, or 0.6% of GDP, compared to $22.9 billion during 2024-25. Services exports increased on a year-on-year basis in major categories, such as computer services and business services. PTI

Trinamool MPs who are to write to Speaker backing NDA

20 Twenty Lok Sabha MPs have decided to write to Speaker Om Birla declaring support for the BJP-led NDA. The development comes days after the Trinamool leadership suffered a setback in the West Bengal Assembly, where 58 of its 80 MLAs defied the party high command's decision to appoint Sovandeb Chattopadhyay as the Leader of the Opposition. PTI

Number of Andhra Pradesh lands resurveyed

6,500 Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Monday said that land resurvey has been completed in over 6,500 villages across the State, enabling the government to update the land records. He noted that pattardar passbooks (land documents) have been issued to 26.4 lakh people. PTI

Indians languishing in Bangladeshi prisons after completing terms

148 A prison official said 152 foreigners, including 148 Indians, were languishing in Bangladeshi prisons even though they had completed their jail terms, according to prison statistics published six months ago. The inmates could not be released as their identities remain unverified, while attempts to contact the Indian Embassy yielded no response, the report said. PTI

Current manpower shortage in Tamil Nadu Electricity Board

70,000 Tamil Nadu Electricity Minister R Nirmal Kumar on Monday announced that the State's electricity board will recruit at least 15,000 permanent employees this year to address severe manpower shortages in the power apparatus. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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What is lost and gained in NFHS-6

NFHS-6 records gains in child nutrition, maternal care, institutional births and women's Internet use, while also introducing new questions on digital literacy and direct benefit transfers; but the survey's preliminary fact sheet is thinner than the last round, dropping key indicators such as anaemia, mortality, sex ratio at birth

ECONOMIC NOTES

Areena Arora

India's latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6) records gains in child nutrition, maternal care, institutional births and women's Internet use. But its preliminary fact sheet is also thinner than the last round, with 101 indicators compared with 131 in NFHS-5.

Which indicators were removed from NFHS-6?

Key indicators such as anaemia, mortality, sex ratio at birth, sanitation, and clean cooking fuel have been removed from the survey.

The Union Health Ministry released the fact sheets of NFHS-6 on May 29, covering 2023-24. The survey recorded data from nearly 6.8 lakh households across every State and Union Territory except Manipur.

Preliminary findings report clear gains on several measures, including mothers getting at least four antenatal check-ups, up about seven percentage points from NFHS-5, an increase in institutional births and women's Internet usage. It also points to declines in several metrics, such as exclusive breastfeeding of infants under six months, down nearly eight percentage points, and the use of modern contraception, down to 52.7% from 56.4%.

The NFHS is commissioned by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, which designates the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) to conduct the survey. Over the years, the scope of the survey has been additive by design, retaining the previous questionnaire and adding to it.

NFHS-4 in 2015-16 introduced district-level estimates and tablet-based digital interviewing for survey collection. NFHS-5 pushed the indicators further, including new topics, such as preschool education, disability, access to a toilet facility, death registration, bathing practices during menstruation and methods and reasons for abortion. It also extended blood pressure and blood sugar measurements from adults aged between 15 and 49 to all adults aged 15 and above. The survey measured 131 key indicators, up from 114 in NFHS-4.

While the HIV testing component was dropped from NFHS-5, it retained questions on HIV/AIDS knowledge, attitudes, prior testing, sexually transmitted infections, and sexual behaviour. In NFHS-6, biological HIV testing has been brought back as part of the clinical, anthropometric and biochemical testing schedule.

The NFHS-6 fact sheet does not separately spell out whether all HIV/AIDS knowledge and attitude questions were retained.

NFHS-6 also added new questions on direct benefit transfers, self-help group memberships, digital literacy and financial transactions. It also includes testing for Hepatitis-B and Hepatitis-C among women and men, as well as dried blood spot collection from children aged 4-5 for Hepatitis-B testing.

But for the first time, the survey has also subtracted overall, showing a net reduction of 30 indicators in the preliminary results. Among the dropped indicators, the most notable ones, such as anaemia, infant and child mortality, sex ratio at birth, clean cooking fuel use, and sanitation, have all appeared since at least NFHS-4.

The NFHS is commissioned by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, which designates the IIPS to conduct the survey. GETTY IMAGES

Why was anaemia dropped?

The case for removing anaemia is related to how it was measured. The indicator had long shown a worsening picture. Between NFHS-4 in 2015-16 and NFHS-5 in 2019-21, anaemia rose across the board. Among children, anaemia prevalence went up from 58.6% to 67.1%, among women aged 15-49, it rose from 53.1% to 57%, and among pregnant women, anaemia rose from 50.4% to 52.2%.

The rise in anaemia was near-universal across the country, with child anaemia increasing in 28 States and Union Territories, and in some cases by big leaps, from 35.7% to 68.4% in Assam and 19.3% to 46.4% in Mizoram. Such deterioration was reported despite the government launching the Anaemia Mukt Bharat campaign in 2018, aimed at tackling anaemia. The reason for dropping it as an indicator then boiled down to how the data were being collected.

NFHS measured haemoglobin from a finger-prick blood sample read on a portable analyser, which several nutrition researchers contend overstated anaemia compared to the venous blood drawn by other surveys. IIPS dropped the anaemia questionnaire when NFHS-6 fieldwork began in 2023. The official position is that the condition will now be tracked separately, through a dedicated Diet and Biomarkers Survey under the National Institute of Nutrition using a method its proponents consider more accurate.

The Diet and Biomarkers Survey in India was not a hurried replacement and was launched in December 2022, before NFHS-6 fieldwork began, at the ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition in Hyderabad.

The survey recorded data on individual dietary intake across age groups, paired with blood and urine biomarkers.

It also built upon nutrition deficiencies and tracked obesity alongside anaemia, a first, according to the organisers. For anaemia, data were collected from venous blood instead of the finger-prick method that NFHS used. Data collection is complete, but hasn't been released yet.

What other changes were made?

A line-by-line comparison of the two fact sheets from NFHS-5 and NFHS-6 shows that the net fall of 30 actually combines 43 indicators dropped and 13 added. Several of the deletions were long-running series, and a few are closely related to the government's signature programmes.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government in 2019 had announced that India would be open defecation-free. NFHS-5 recorded 70% of the country's population living in households with access to sanitation facilities. That data point has also been dropped.

The share of households using clean fuel for cooking, 58.6% in NFHS-5, is gone – a direct measure of the success of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana.

The three mortality indicators – neonatal, infant and under-five – have also been cut, but these will be tracked by the Sample Registration System, whose latest bulletin put infant mortality at 24 per 1,000 live births.

The Registration System, however, does not carry district-level data and socio-economic breakdowns that are available in NFHS.

The sex ratio of the total population and the sex ratio at birth, 929 females per 1,000 males in NFHS-5, are both absent, removing a standard signal of sex-selective practices. Four cancer-screening indicators, covering cervical, breast and oral cancer, introduced only in NFHS-5 are gone after a single round.

A few changes are redefinitions rather than cuts. Women's individual ownership of a house or land has become a household-level measure. Three-dose hepatitis B line has become a birth-dose measure, and pre-school attendance has shifted age bands, targeting a younger demographic. IIPS has not published a rationale for the wider list.

Together, the removals leave no current survey-based national figure for infant mortality, sanitation coverage, sex ratio at birth, cancer screening rates or comprehensive HIV knowledge, gaps that no other single source fills at the same scale.

How did survey results change between NFHS-5 and NFHS-6?

NFHS-6 reported a drop in the number of women who have experienced spousal violence, down to 22.3% from 29.3%. The number of children aged five or below who are stunted declined too. The drop from NFHS-4 to NFHS-5 was just under three percentage points, but NFHS-6 saw a drop of over six percentage points.

State-level changes are sharper for certain indicators.

Health insurance coverage rose the most in West Bengal, from 33.7% of households in NFHS-5 to 88.2% in NFHS-6. Women's Internet use saw its largest increase in Andhra Pradesh, from 21% to 63.6%. Haryana recorded the steepest fall in exclusive breastfeeding among infants under six months, from 69.5% to 41.2%. The share of women classified as overweight or obese increased in every State.

THE GIST

- NFHS-6 shows a net reduction of 30 indicators in its preliminary fact sheet, with 43 indicators dropped and 13 added compared with NFHS-5.
- Anaemia was dropped from NFHS-6, with the official position being that it will be tracked separately through the Diet and Biomarkers Survey.
- Several long-running indicators, including infant and child mortality, sex ratio at birth, sanitation coverage, clean cooking fuel use and cancer-screening measures, are absent from the latest fact sheet, leaving gaps that no other single source fills at the same scale.

Now, Krishna Byre Gowda unhappy with portfolio sans BDA and BMRDA

The Congress has been firefighting the discontent over allocation of the Bengaluru Development portfolio since the D.K. Shivakumar-led Cabinet was sworn in on June 3

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Just when discontent over allocation of ministerial portfolios was believed to be contained by the Congress, Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, who has been allocated the Bengaluru Development portfolio, has expressed reservations over not being given Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) and Bengaluru Metropolitan Region Development Authority (BMRDA) along with the portfolio.

"I do not know why Chief Minister (D.K. Shivakumar) has done this. If there is no complete control over the administration, the system misguides you. The system does not run honourably in Bengaluru as is being thought. If we have to effectively run the administration, it is not possible if the administration is not fully under control. We cannot reach our goal or show results," Mr. Gowda told a private channel on Monday. "I have conveyed to the Chief Minister that it will not be good for Bengaluru. Let us see what decision he will take. He and the party high command are there, they will decide."

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar with Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda. FILE PHOTO

During the portfolio allocation, Mr. Shivakumar, who earlier held the Bengaluru Development portfolio, allocated it to Mr. Gowda. But the Chief Minister has kept BDA and BMRDA with himself.

The Congress has been firefighting the discontent over allocation of the portfolio since the D.K. Shivakumar-led Cabinet was sworn in on June 3. Senior Minister Ramalinga Reddy, who took charge of the Water Resources Department on Monday, had publicly aired his discontent and sought the Bengaluru Development portfolio instead. However, he was convinced to hold the Water Resources portfolio. Even K.H. Muniyappa, who had publicly aired his dissatisfaction over being allocated the Food and Civil Supplies Department instead of Social Welfare, was convinced to retain the Food and Civil Supplies Department.

Acknowledging that the system did not work like that in the past, Mr. Gowda argued, "You cannot have accountability if the responsibility is divided. There will be inconvenience in working. It will benefit those in the middle and those capable will take advantage. There are many such clever people in Bengaluru."

RS polls: BJP springs a surprise by choosing academician as candidate

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The speculation over whether the 93-year-old former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda will get one more opportunity to serve as Rajya Sabha member has ended with the BJP choosing OBC leader and academician M. Nagaraja as its candidate for the Rajya Sabha elections being held from Karnataka.

The name of Prof. Nagaraja, who has been associated with RSS since his student days, was cleared by the party Central election committee late on Sunday night. He filed his nomination papers too.

Mr. Nagaraja, who hails from Hubballi, had earlier served as Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad State president, BJP State vice-president, and a member of the Karnataka Public Service Commission. He was also State in-charge of the committee that was tasked with the construction of office buildings under the party's plan to have a party office in every district.

Mr. Nagaraj, who obtained a PhD in highway engineering, has worked in the field of teaching and research for 22 years.

State BJP president B.Y. Vijayendra with party Rajya Sabha candidate M. Nagaraja and other party members in Bengaluru on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mr. Gowda, who is the national president of JD(S), had to depend on the support of his ally BJP to contest the Rajya Sabha elections as his party did not have the necessary number of MLAs to ensure his victory on its own.

Sources in the BJP State unit maintained that Mr. Gowda had never formally sought another term in the Rajya Sabha perhaps due to his old age.

"There was no question of the BJP fielding any other candidate if Mr. Gowda wanted another term in the Rajya Sabha," BJP sources said.

The BJP choosing Prof. Nagaraja is being seen as part of the political strategy by the party to make inroads into the OBC vote bank of the Congress in the wake of its leader Siddaramaiah stepping down as Chief Minister.

The biennial elections have been necessitated due to the retirement of Mr. Gowda, Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, and BJP members Iranna Kadadi and Narayana Koragappa on June 25. Polling for the Rajya Sabha will be held on June 18.

Council polls

Meanwhile, the BJP has also fielded Lingaraj Patil and Raghu Kautilya as its candidates for the forthcoming elections to the Legislative Council from the Assembly constituency. It has not given ticket to any of its sitting MLCs who are retiring.

The biennial elections are being held as seven MLCs, who have been elected by the Legislative Assembly, are retiring on June 30. The retiring MLCs are Govindaraju (Congress), Naseer Ahmed (Congress), M.T.B. Nagaraju (BJP), Prathap Simha Nayak (BJP), Thippannappa (Congress), Sunil Vallyapur (BJP) and B.K. Hariprasad (Congress).

The biennial elections to seven council seats will be held on June 18. The last day for filing nominations for MLC polls is June 11 while polling by MLAs will be held on June 18.

The name of Prof. Nagaraja, who has been associated with RSS since his student days, was cleared by the party Central election committee late on Sunday night

From Page One

Gowda's career in public office set to end

Soon after the party's debacle in the 2023 Assembly elections, the JD(S) joined the Modi-led NDA.

During his illustrious political career that started from being elected to the Taluk Development Board in 1960 and later elected to the Karnataka Legislative Assembly in 1962, Mr. Gowda became the 14th Chief Minister of Karnataka in 1994 after leading the Janata Dal to election victory and 11th Prime Minister of India in 1996 heading the United Front government. He has been a six-term member of Lok Sabha and a two-term member in Rajya Sabha. Mr. Gowda has been elected to the Legislative Assembly seven times.

Sunil Kanagolu is CM's Chief Adviser

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Political strategist Sunil Kanagolu, who worked with the Congress on election strategy ahead of the 2023 Assembly elections, has been appointed as the Chief Adviser to Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Monday.

He will have the status of Cabinet Minister, according to a notification isused here on Monday.

Cong. flays denial of nomination to Gowda

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The nomination of M. Nagaraja for the Rajya Sabha polls by the BJP instead of fielding former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda drew ridicule from the Congress on Monday, with the party terming the move as "humiliation heaped upon the JD(S) by the BJP".

"The constant humiliation heaped upon JD(S) by the BJP and its leadership, and its repeated acceptance by JD(S) State president H.D. Kumaraswamy merely sticking to a ministerial chair at any cost is highly astonishing and eye-opening" said Congress general secretary in-charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala on X.

H.D. Deve Gowda

KPCC president B.K. Hariprasad termed it an insult, accusing the BJP of using and misusing the former Prime Minister for its benefit. "The Congress helped him (Mr. Gowda) get unanimously elected to the Rajya Sabha. It is not an insult to Mr. Gowda alone, but an insult to the people of Karnataka by denying the Rajya Sabha nomination to him. The people of Karnataka will give a befitting reply," stressed

However, JD(S) sources accused the Congress of trying to drive a wedge between the NDA partners, something both parties are fully aware of. "We will not be affected by such attacks. The Congress has been showing concerns unnecessarily. Mr. Gowda is above all, and our alliance is intact," they said.

BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra said there has been no discussion in the State unit on sending Mr. Gowda to Rajya Sabha. "We have all the respect for Mr. Gowda. The party Central leadership will hold discussions and give him an appropriate position in the coming days."

'Not expecting any more portfolios'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Water Resources Minister Ramalinga Reddy on Monday said that he was not expecting any more portfolios to be given to him.

When asked by media-persons about the speculation over him receiving additional portfolios, he told reporters: "I will not ask and I do not want more portfolios. There are others and 20 more Ministers are yet to be sworn in."

Elections to 1 of 7 seats in Legislative Council being keenly watched

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The upcoming elections to seven seats of the Karnataka Legislative Council, to be held on June 18, is being curiously watched. The Congress can comfortably win four seats and BJP two seats, but the election to one seat, for which neither them nor the JD(S) have the required number of votes, is set to be interesting.

The Congress has nominated Vinay Karthik while JD(S) has nominated Govindaraju, forcing a contest. B.M. Farooq was also considered by the JD(S), sources said.

MLAs will elect the candidates, and with the disqualification of Vinay Kulkarni and demise of former Minister D. Sudhakar, the total votes available in the Assembly will be 222.

As per a calculation, each candidate requires 28 votes to win, and the Congress has just enough numbers.

While the Congress has 135 members, it is supported by two Independents and one Raitha Sangha member. Two members expelled from the BJP – S.T. Somashekar and Shivaram Hebbar – are expected to support the Congress, taking the tally to 140, which is adequate to win five seats. "Since it is a preferential voting system, on paper, Congress could be winning the seat comfortably," government sources said.

Yatnal's support

The JD(S), with 18 members and support of six votes from the BJP (votes left after ensuring victory of its two candidates), is also expected to receive support from Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal, the expelled BJP member, taking its tally to 25. The decision of JD(S) senior member G.T. Deve Gowda, who has distanced himself from the party leadership, is not known.

"Will anyone say how the game of chess in politics will be played out? No one will speak," Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar told pressperssons when asked about the Congress' strategy.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

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BRAVO	Cdr J Moses, Sqn Ldr M Nagendra, Lt AK Raghava, Capt KA Ramana, Lt Col SS Soin, Flt Cdt AS Malhotra, Flt Lt N Sridhar, 2nd Lt SK Chawla, Wg Cdr AM Hameed, Col VP Singh*
CHARLIE	Flt Lt CM Shivkumar, Lt Col H Pahwa, Flt Lt AG Narahari, Col SN Jha
DELTA	Wg Cdr C Vinodkumar, Lt (IN) SG Pynumootil, Capt (IN) P Baokar, Capt Gurpreet Singh, Col Jaswinder Singh Khaira
ECHO	Cdr DS Chhillar, Col DB Yadav, Lt SK Mahakal, Lt (IN) J Rajkhowa, Col S Maira, RAdm SS Jamwal, Fg Offr S Kaul, Maj KV Thomas, Col Satyanarayana Panga
FOX	Col NK Jha, Gp Capt KR Rathindranath, Maj CM Vishwanathan
GOLF	Lt Col SK Rathore , Fg Offr PB Madhavan, Maj J Pandian, Col AV Dhuri, Maj SK Agnihotri, Gp Capt M Mohana Rao
HUNTER	Maj A Sahore, Brig SJ Gracias, Maj Manohar Singh, Maj SR Nayak, Col Ravi Swaminathan, Wg Cdr Mukul Ekka*
INDIA	Cdr G Vinod
JULIET	Sqn Ldr UK Baweja, Flt Lt RK Singh, Flt Cdt AM Prasad, Maj A Pradhan, Capt N Gorti, Capt MK Singh, Col S Jakhar
KILO	Cdr SP Yadav, Col MB Ravindranath, Maj A Pradhan, Sub Lt Mosaati SF, Maj Gen Sarabjeet Singh
LIMA	Col RK Popli, Flt Lt SK Bhukar

* Demise after 9th June 2025

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CACHE

Why Census 2027 matters for development, democracy and representation

Census 2027, the world's largest count of people within a national geography, is an overdue exercise with far-reaching implications; an accurate and comprehensive count will ensure that no one is left behind and that policies, entitlements, and resources are guided by reliable data

Akshay Rout

Census enumerators during a door-to-door survey of digital mapping for the Census at Shashi Garden, in New Delhi, on May 29. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Record turnouts in the recently concluded Assembly elections have brought satisfaction to all those who believe in the ultimate say of numbers and counts in a democracy. The only concern amid this celebration is whether everyone who needs to be counted has actually been included. This sense of urgency should equally drive the ongoing Census, the mother of all counts.

The world's largest-ever count of people within a national geography got underway on April 1, with the commencement of the first of the two phases of Census 2027. The first phase will gather nationwide information on the conditions, amenities, and assets of every household. The second will collect critical demographic and socio-economic information, including details on education, migration, fertility, and, of course, caste.

Seriously overdue

The eighth Census since Independence comes after a gap of 15 years instead of the usual 10, owing first to the COVID-19 disruption and later to the Lok Sabha elections. India has certainly been missing an updated demographic database. Public and private planning alike have had to rely either on the 2011 Census or on informed extrapolations from it.

There are other credible surveys, including five rounds of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS), but these largely focus on health and nutrition. The World Bank and various UN agencies have also periodically conducted studies in their areas of interest. The United Nations Population Fund estimates India's population in 2025 at more than 146 crore. The population count in 2011 stood at 121 crore, marking a growth of 17.7% over the 2001 Census. Census 2027 is expected to record an increase of 25-30 crore. That makes the case for an accurate, secure, and comprehensive national census even more urgent.

The purpose of the Census in colonial India was to help the rulers govern more efficiently and sustain the regime. In post-Independence India, the Census has served a different purpose: improving governance and speeding up multidimensional and inclusive development. The 1951 Census, expectedly, revealed dismal levels of literacy, poverty, and life expectancy in a country depleted by colonial rule. India in 2026-27 stands on a completely different footing in terms of mobility, connectivity, infrastructure, education, healthcare and other indicators of living standards, which await measurement.

Contested demography

The season of demographic politics is here. Special intensive revision (SIR) is a rebuilding of India's electoral rolls; the process has also prompted citizens to ensure that they are counted and that their names remain on the rolls.

One act was played in Parliament in mid-April when women's reservation became a casualty of the fear of 'biased' delimitation of constituencies. New electoral boundaries will ordinarily be anchored in Census data, and the 33% reserved seats for women in the legislature will be tied to it. This way, the Census exercise will have elaborate implications for the country's representative democracy.

Another standout feature of Census 2027 is the inclusion of the caste question for the first time. The matter has been on the political agenda for years now, often dragged into elections. The direction of the debate after the release of the data will be closely watched.

Existing reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will also have the new Census as a reference. Instead of belligerent battles fought over caste, class, and community interests in the electoral cauldron, getting duly counted along these divisions could be a constructive presentation of the case. Affirmative action for marginalised groups, provided under India's legal and constitutional framework and considered as the fountainhead of social justice, depends on systematic data drawn from the Census.

Roti, kapda, makaan

The Census may appear not to offer any individual profit, but most certainly it does. Access to jobs, food, housing, cooking gas, clean drinking water, safe sanitation, schools, and hospitals are among the expectations citizens have of an elected government.

Accurately identifying needs and deprivations through reliable databases provides the basis for targeted delivery of these welfare measures and public services. Demographic profiles also inform the Finance Commission's devolution of funds to States and local bodies and even guide private-sector investments in identified areas.

Public policy and service delivery can falter when residents are not properly counted under various buckets. Digital data collection, being done for the first time, could provide deeper and more segregated identification of issues in localities. Viewed from another perspective, departmental dashboards for social and infrastructural provisions could face reality checks post-Census, against their claims.

Guardrails of individual rights

Online self-enumeration, available for 15 days, preceding the survey and already completed by over one crore households, is an additional facilitation, but not mandatory. Self-enumeration blends digital empowerment with the right to privacy and accuracy of personal data. Inclusion is ensured by retaining the manual option and language choices. Census authorities loudly assure that 'an enumerator will definitely visit your home.' The Census Act, 1948, ensures the protection of individual data in the face of a malevolent and interconnected world.

In contemporary elections, population groups look out for targeted benefits, often casting votes in return. The ethical and economic prudence of this bargain is widely questioned. But a good Census delivers the same without moral or fiscal damage. While the government has pitched the Census as an instrument of development, citizens must proactively grab the chance of getting counted. Census in 2011 had the tagline 'Our Census, Our Future'; in 2027, it is 'Our Census, Our Development'. One could hasten to add, 'my census, my right.'

Everyone's task, everyone's gain

High profile enumeration of the top brass in the national and State capitals carries great symbolism. But the true mandate of the Census is to ensure that no one is left behind and that no facts – or even factoids – from the remotest hamlet or the most crowded urban slum, regardless of people's circumstances, are excluded from this long-overdue exercise.

Over three million census staffers will have to overcome topographical and social barriers as they go door to door to complete this onerous task.

Although participation in the Census is mandatory, public cooperation must be driven by a heightened awareness of self-interest rather than the apathy that often characterises urban life. '*Pragati*' and '*Vikas*', the mascots of Census 2027, are statements not only of the purpose, but of equal role for men and women.

Millions of voters stood in line at polling booths over the past two months because they recognised the importance of their vote, even though voting remains optional. In an ocean of census operations, every individual count matters, just as every single vote matters in a large election.

(Akshay Rout is a former Director General, Election Commission of India and a Public Policy Commentator. Views expressed are personal)

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

"Which of the following sentences is correct? "He runs faster than me", or, "He runs faster than I"? (K. Suresh Kumar, Kanyakumari)

Very often people wonder if they should say, "It's me", or "It's I". In the past, the accepted form was "It's I". "It's me" was considered unacceptable. Nowadays, of course, "It's me" is the preferred answer to the question, "Who is it?". You would sound pretty pompous if you were to say, "It's I".

Both the sentences that you have given are acceptable. The most common response to the question "Who runs faster?" would be "He runs faster than me". Although "He runs faster than I" is correct, it sounds rather old fashioned. You won't find too many native speakers of English saying, "He is elder than I", or "He is a better player than I". In sentences like these, there is a tendency nowadays to replace "I" with "me".

What is the meaning of "Lilliputian"? (Br. Anandraj. SDB, Polur, Tamil Nadu)

Have you read Jonathan Swift's "Gulliver's Travels"? Lilliput is an imaginary country that the hero Gulliver finds himself in after he has been shipwrecked. The inhabitants of this country are only six inches tall. So, when you say that something is lilliputian you mean that it is terribly small. The word can also be used to refer to something that is intended for very small people. The word is considered to be literary. Here are a few examples.

He showed us a lilliputian chest of drawers and he wanted ten thousand for it.

We found many lilliputian figures buried in the sand.

By the way, the first two syllables of the word are pronounced like the word "lily". The "pu" rhymes with the words "few", "due", and "cue". The "t" sounds like the "sh" in "shirt", "ship", and "shin". The "i" is like the "i" in "sit", "bit", and "hit", while the final "a" is like the "a" in "China" and "amount". Some people however pronounce the final "tian" like the "tion" in "election", "station", and "constitution". The main stress is on the third syllable "pu".

What is the meaning of "There is no question of his going"? (Dr. K. R. Mahalingam, Chennai)

This sentence means that the question of someone's going does not arise. In other words, the person is definitely not going – perhaps he himself doesn't want to go, or he has not been given the permission to go! Whatever be the reason, the man is not going. Here are a few more examples.

There is no question of my giving up. (I am not going to give up)

There is no question of my not marrying Usha. (I am definitely marrying Usha)

There is no question of his failing. (He will definitely pass)

How do you pronounce the word "heist"? (G. Rajendran, Hyderabad)

The "ei" is like the "ie" in "die", "pie", and "tie".

The final "st" is like the "st" in "stay", "strike", and "stink". Any idea what the word means? A "heist" is a theft or a robbery. Here are a few examples:

It was their first heist and it was badly planned.

Abhishek wanted to pull off another heist.

Published in The Hindu on November 21, 2000

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

June 9 marks the death anniversary of tribal freedom fighter Birsa Munda, whose brief life left a lasting imprint on anti-colonial resistance and Adivasi assertion in India

Prathmesh Kher

QUESTION 1
Which nineteenth-century movement preceded Birsa's uprising and influenced the political climate in Chotanagpur?

QUESTION 2
The Munda uprising led by Birsa Munda at the turn of the twentieth century is popularly known by what term, meaning "Great Tumult"?

QUESTION 3
What slogan associated with Birsa Munda called for the end of British rule?

QUESTION 4
Birsa Munda's religious teachings led to the emergence of a distinct faith community known by what name?

QUESTION 5
Birsa Munda died in Ranchi Jail in 1900. What was the official cause of death recorded by the British authorities?

Visual Question:
This famous photograph of Birsa Munda was reproduced in which pioneering ethnographic work by Sarat Chandra Roy?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Why was June 8 specifically chosen for World Oceans Day and when was it first observed? **Ans: It was on this date in the 1992 Earth Summit that the concept was introduced by the Oceans Institute of Canada and the International Centre for Ocean Development. 2009.**
2. How many oceans are officially recognised and which is the smallest? **Ans: Five with Arctic being the smallest**
3. Which distinct characteristic of oceans is because of mineral runoff from land and hydrothermal activity on the seafloor? **Ans: Saltiness**
4. If the average global temperature rises by 1.5°C, the estimated loss of which remarkable biodiverse natural feature is 70 to 90%? **Ans: Coral reefs**
5. The Aral Sea dramatically shrank because of massive water diversion projects in the 1960s on two major rivers. Name the rivers. **Ans: Amu Darya and Syr Darya**
6. What is a 'seamount'? **Ans: A submarine volcanic mountain rising at least 1,000 metres above the surrounding deep-sea floor**
7. What body of water separates Madagascar from the African continent? **Ans: Mozambique Channel**
8. Which 'colourful' sea's name is a direct translation of its ancient Greek name Erythra Thalassa? **Ans: Red Sea**
Visual: Name this member of the deepest-living fish family that have been recorded in trenches of over 8000m. **Ans: Snailfish**
Early Birds: Jha Akshay Amarendra | Kaveesh Sethi | Pranab Biswas | Deepak Jiloha | Soumyabrata Kar

Word of the day

Frugal:
using only as much money or food as is necessary

Synonyms: economical, thrifty, saving

Usage: *He is frugal with his money and saves a little every month.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/frugal

International Phonetic Alphabet: /fru:gəl/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Kodagu homestay owner counters U.S. woman's allegations against him

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court on Monday summoned police records on the criminal case registered with the Kutta police in Kodagu district on the alleged rape of a 33-year-old U.S. citizen at a homestay by its housekeeper in April. This follows a petition filed by the homestay's owner, who has questioned the registration of the case against him.

The 55-year-old owner, accused of forcing the survivor not to disclose the alleged incident of rape committed by the 45-year-old housekeeper has made a counter-claim that the victim had never mentioned the alleged incident to him.

The petitioner has also sought compensation from the police for illegally keeping him in judicial custody for 14 days, till he was released on bail.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna, before whom the petition came up for hearing, has adjourned the further hearing on the petition while asking the Additional Public Prosecutor to secure the police records to consider the plea of interim order of stay of criminal proceedings against the petitioner.

On the allegation that the petitioner had forced her to stay even after the alleged crime, told her not to inform the police, and prevented her from communicating with others over phone, it has been claimed in the petition that her complaint itself states that "she had not disclosed the incident of rape" to him when he met her near the swimming pool after the alleged sexual assault.

The petition pointed out that the victim had come to the petitioner's house around 10 p.m. on April 12 with a request to stay at a safe place with a lock and not a tent, where she earlier opted to stay. She was then allowed to stay in a room, the petition added, noting that even at this point of time, she had not mentioned anything about the alleged rape.

Further, it has been pointed out that the victim accompanied the petitioner, his wife and mother to Ponnampet town on April 13, spoke over phone to persons associated with U.S. consulates on April 14, and on April 15, by hiring a taxi with the petitioner's help, she had gone on a day-long excursion.

She had given her "oral" statement about the alleged incident to the police at the private residence of the Community Liaison Volunteer of the U.S. Consulate at Mysuru around noon on April 18.

'No ID, no entry' in pubs, bars

The Home Minister directs the police to treat underage drinking not merely as a licencing violation but as a serious youth-safety and public-health issue

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Home Minister Priyank Kharge has directed police authorities to enforce strict age-verification measures at pubs, breweries, bars, clubs, lounges, restaurants and other liquor-serving establishments across the State, warning of severe action against venues that allow underage drinking.

The directive comes amid the growing concern over alcohol and tobacco consumption among adolescents and young adults in Bengaluru. A recent study conducted by researchers from St. John's Medical College, Christ University, and Kasturba Medical College surveyed 4,093 students from pre-university, undergraduate, and higher secondary institutions in Bengaluru and found that one in three adolescents is at risk of developing health problems linked to alcohol or tobacco use.

The directive comes amid the growing concern over alcohol and tobacco consumption among adolescents in Bengaluru. GETTY IMAGES

According to the study, 33% of respondents reported consuming alcohol, while nearly 18% were addicted to tobacco. These figures are significantly higher than the national prevalence rates and Karnataka's reported averages. The study also found that the median age for initiating alcohol consumption among Bengaluru adolescents was 17 years, with some respondents reporting that they began drinking as early as eight years of age.

Citing the findings, the Home Minister instructed the police to treat underage drinking not merely as a licencing violation but as a serious youth-safety and public-health issue.

Under the new directions, liquor-serving establishments have been asked to implement rigorous age-verification procedures, both at entry points and before serving alcohol.

The key measures include a strict 'No ID, No Entry' policy, mandatory verification of government-issued identity documents, stringent action against establishments serving alcohol to minors, and accountability of owners, managers, licence-holders, and event organisers for violations occurring on their premises.

The government has also directed establishments to ensure that CCTV cameras at entrances are functional and that footage is preserved for a specified period to aid investigations when required.

The police have additionally been asked to coordinate with educational institutions, parents, resident welfare associations, and community groups to prevent minors from being exposed to alcohol, tobacco, and narcotic substances.

Stating that the government would adopt a zero-tolerance approach towards underage drinking, the Home Minister said commercial establishments cannot place profits above the safety and future of young people, and warned that any venue found enabling underage drinking would face severe legal consequences. He appealed to parents, teachers, citizens, and business owners to cooperate with law enforcement agencies.

Court allows ED access to SFIO papers in CMRL case

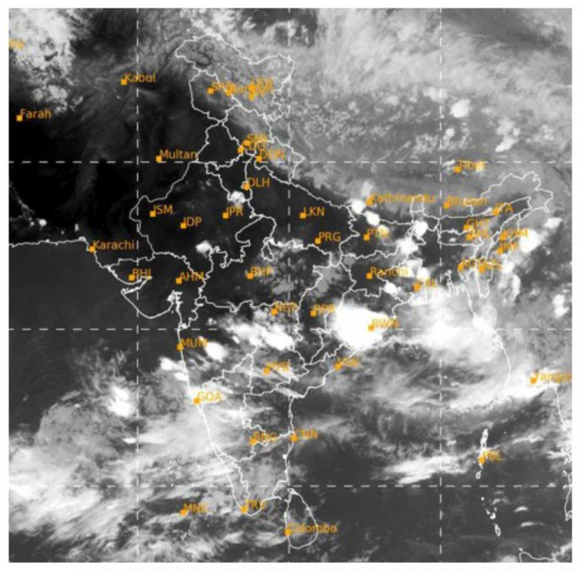
The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

A special court for the trial of Companies Act offences in Kerala's Kochi on Monday allowed the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to obtain copies of documents collected by the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) in connection with the money laundering case linked to the Cochin Minerals and Rutile Limited (CMRL) pay-off case.

Ernakulam Additional District and Sessions Judge V.P.M. Suresh Babu allowed a petition filed by the ED seeking copies of documents gathered by the SFIO. The ED had on May 27 raided the residences of Kerala's former Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in Kannur and Thiruvananthapuram as part of the probe into his daughter and former IT consultant T. Veena's now-defunct firm Exalogic.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal, Telangana, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, Mahe and Lakshadweep. Heat wave conditions likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	9	35.2	26.2	Kurnool	0.6	35.5	25.7
Ahmedabad	—	42.2	29.9	Lucknow	—	40.3	29.7
Aizawl	—	32.1	24.3	Madurai	—	34.7	27.1
Bengaluru	11	29.6	21.2	Mangaluru	3	28.8	24.8
Bhopal	—	38.7	25.8	Mumbai	—	35.1	29.9
Bhubaneswar	12.9	40.7	26.2	Mysuru	—	31.2	20.4
Chandigarh	—	41.0	25.8	New Delhi	—	42.2	29.2
Chennai	—	39.7	30.0	Patna	—	41.3	30.3
Coimbatore	—	29.8	23.4	Port Blair	0.8	31.5	27.3
Dehradun	—	37.0	23.8	Prayagraj	—	42.5	28.0
Gangtok	8	23.5	17.8	Puducherry	—	38.8	26.6
Goa	7	31.4	24.7	Pune	—	35.6	25.8
Guwahati	—	34.7	27.0	Raipur	—	42.0	32.2
Hubballi	—	26.0	23.0	Ranchi	—	37.2	23.0
Hyderabad	—	36.4	25.2	Shillong	—	26.0	18.0
Imphal	0.8	31.1	23.1	Shimla	—	30.8	21.0
Jaipur	—	40.1	27.2	Srinagar	—	30.3	12.5
Kochi	34	29.4	24.2	Thiruvananthapuram	51	30.5	22.7
Kohima	—	25.0	19.0	Tiruchirappalli	—	36.3	27.4
Kolkata	23	38.0	24.6	Vijayawada	6	37.4	25.6
Kozhikode	2	32.0	26.2	Visakhapatnam	—	35.3	20.3

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.85	..32	43	 74	86	.....
Bengaluru	.16	..19	44	 31	47	.....
Chennai	...6	..14	52	 40	52	.....
Delhi	.28	..62	48	... 104	...394	.....
Hyderabad	.13	..18	35	 81	86	.....
Kolkata	.14	..25	17	 71	83	.....
Lucknow	.12	..12	47	... 160	98	.....
Mumbai	...4	6	41	 27	...108	.....
Pune	..—	..48	65	 47	85	.....
Visakhapatnam	.18	..48	17	 55	...128	.....

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Panipat, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 293 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 20

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಹರಿಹರ–577601

ಫೋ:08192–202627 ka.harihar.cmc@gmail.com

ನಂ.ನಸಹ/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ/ಐಎಫ್‌ಟಿ–33/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06–06–2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2026–27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ನಗರಸಭೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಆದೇಶ–1999–2000ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಬಿಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಸಿ–1 & 2ರ ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತೆ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂಬರ್‌ಗೆ ನೀಡಲಾದ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತರಾದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ/ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿದಾರರು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು ಇಚ್ಛೆಯುಳ್ಳ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ತಮ್ಮ ದರಗಳನ್ನು KPP ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೋರಿದೆ. ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ತಮಗೆ ಅನ್ವಯಿಸುವ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆ ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹರಿಹರ ಇವರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ವಿವರ	ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 01 ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 02 ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕ
ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ	ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16–06–2026 ರಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ	ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01–07–2026 ರಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ	ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17–06–2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ	ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02–07–2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂಬರ್	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1.	DMA/2026-27/SE 8007	14.00
2.	DMA/2026-27/SE 8008	184.00

ಸಹಿ/– ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹರಿಹರ.

ಸಹಿ/–ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು, ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹರಿಹರ. ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿವಿಜಿ/142/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

BENGALURU SMART INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED

B-Smile

Office of the Project Engineer-01,
No. 30/1, 3rd Floor, Thimmaiah Road, Miller Tank Bund Area,
Vasanthnagara, Bengaluru - 560052.

No: B-SMILE/PE-01/TEND/06/2026-27 Date: 08-06-2026

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Project Engineer-01, B-SMILE, GBA, Bengaluru invites Proposals to Consultancy Service from registered Firms / Agencies / Individuals for **Conducting Revenue Survey** who have relevant experience in doing similar nature of works detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Consultancy Service for Conducting Revenue Survey of Comprehensive Development of Outer Ring Road from Silk Board Junction to K.R. Puram Metro Station to Global Standards **(Package-01: Silk Board Junction to Iblur Junction). Amount Put to Tender (in Rs.): 12,25,087.37 (Excluding GST), EMD Amount (in Rs.): 12,300.00**
2	Consultancy Service for Conducting Revenue Survey of Comprehensive Development of Outer Ring Road from Silk Board Junction to K.R. Puram Metro Station to Global Standards **(Package-02: Iblur Junction to K.R. Puram Metro Station). Amount Put to Tender (in Rs.): 27,67,244.46 (Excluding GST), EMD Amount (in Rs.): 27,700.00**

Calendar of Events: **1)** Tender Documents can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 10-06-2026, 16.30 Hours onwards. 2)** Date of Pre Bid Meeting: **17-06-2026 at 16.00 Hours. 3)** Last Date & Time for Receipt of Tenders: **24-06-2026 upto 16.00 Hours. 4)** Date and Time of Opening of Technical Bid: **25-06-2026 at 11.30 Hours. 5)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **Will be intimated after obtaining Approval for Technical Evaluation.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Project Engineer-01, B-SMILE, GBA.

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited

(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(e-procurement mode only)

KPTCL invites bids against bid enquiry for the following works in the Transmission(Operations), Circle-South, Bengaluru.

No. SEE/Tr(Op)/Circle-South/EE(O)/AEE-1/F-180(07)/26-27/1119-20, Date: 05.06.2026

1. KPTCL/SEE/Tr(Op)/Circle-South/EE(O)/AEE-1/24-25/EPR-15, Call-4, Dated 01.10.2024 for increasing the Vertical Clearance of existing 66kV HAL-BWTC-1&2 (HAL-K.B.Halli& HAL-Bagmane-GTRE) D/C Line between Tower number 5 & 6 in Jagdeeshnagar by providing an intermediate tower (66kV DD plus 0, NBT, KPTCL Design) in TLM Sub-Division Hoody, Bengaluru.

SEE/Tr(Op)/Circle-South/EE(O)/AEE-1/F-180(06)/26-27/1121-22, Date: 05.06.2026

2.KPTCL/SEE/TR(Op)/Circle-South/EE(O)/AEE-1/25-26/EPR-02, Call-4 Dated 17.05.2025 for Re-arrangement / Shifting of existing 66kV DC Line Hoody-Pottery road (Hoskote-1), Hoody- Hoskote (Hoskote-2) from existing 66kV T.No 14 to T.No 18 in Avalahalli and Medahalli village (Yellamma Lake) in TLM Sub-Division Hoody, Bengaluru.

No. SEE/Tr(Op)/Circle-South/EE(O)/AEE-1/F-180(09)/26-27/1123-24, Date: 05.06.2026

3.KPTCL/SEE/TR(Op)/Circle-South/AEE-1/24-25/EPR-15, Call-6, Dated 01.10.2024 for increasing the Vertical Clearance of existing 220kV Hoody-Malur SC Line between Tower no.16 and Tower no.22 in Anugraha Layout by providing 3 No's of proposed new intermediate towers of 220kV DD plus zero Gadag-Bagalkote design tower, 220kV DB/DE plus 6 NBT NRS-Laggere design Tower in TLM Sub-Division Hoody, Bengaluru.

No. SEE/Tr(Op)/Circle-South/EE(O)/AEE-1/F-180(08)/26-27/1125-26, Date: 05.06.2026

4.KPTCL/SEE/TR(Op)/Circle-South/EE(O)/AEE-1/25-26/EPR-04, Call-6, Dated 17.05.2025 for increasing the Vertical Clearance of existing 66kV ITI-Hebbala-1&2 (ITI-Banaswadi & ITI-Pottery road) D/C Line between Tower number 9 & 11 in Ramamurthy Nagar by providing 2 No's of new proposed intermediate towers of 66kV DD+3 [9 Arm] NBT KPTCL Design Tower & 66kV DD+3 NBT KPTCL Design Tower in TLM Sub-Division Hoody, Bengaluru.

No. SEE/Tr(Op)/Circle-South/EE(O)/AEE-1/F-180(01)/26-27/1127-28, Date: 05.06.2026

5. KPTCL/SEE/TR(Op)/Circle-South/(O)/AEE-1/24-25/ EPR-83, Call-4, Dated: 12.02.2025 for increasing Vertical Clearance of existing 66kV Hebbala – ITI DC line to Pottery Road S/s passing near St. Charles School between tower no.22 & 23 in St. Thomas Town, HBR Layout Bengaluru by Providing 02 No's of 66kV DD plus 6 NBT KPTCL design tower, pertaining to TLM Hoody, Bengaluru.

No. SEE/Tr(Op)/Circle-South/EE(O)/AEE-1/F-180(12)/26-27/1129-30, Date: 05.06.2026

6.KPTCL/SEE/TR(Op)/Circle-South/EE(O)/AEE-1/24-25/EPR-15, Call-4, Dated 01.10.2024 for increasing the Vertical Clearance of existing 66kV ITI-Hebbala-1&2 (Hebbala-L.R. Bande & Hebbala-Banaswadi tapped to pottery road) double circuit line between tower No.06 & 07 in HMT Layout, R.T Nagar by providing 02 Nos of 66kV DC plus 6 NBT KPTCL design towers in TLM Sub-Division Hoody, Bengaluru.

No. SEE/Tr(Op)/Circle-South/EE(O)/AEE-1/F-180(05)/26-27/1131-32, Date: 05.06.2026

7.KPTCL/SEE/TR(Op)/Circle-South/EE(O)/AEE-1/25-26/EPR-03, Call-4, Dated 17.05.2025 for increasing the Vertical Clearance of existing 66kV Hoody-BWTC-1&2 D/C Line between Tower number 9 & 10 by providing 2 No's of new Proposed Intermediate towers of 110kV, DD+3, NBT, KPTCL Design Tower & 110kV, DD+0, NBT, KPTCL Design Towers in Garudacharpalya Mahadevpura limits in TLM Sub-Division Hoody, Bengaluru.

No. SEE/Tr(Op)/Circle-South/EE(O)/AEE-1/F-180(02)/26-27/1133-34, Date: 05.06.2026

8.KPTCL/SEE/TR(Op)/Circle-South/EE(O)/AEE-1/24-25/EPR-15, Call-4, Dated 01.10.2024 for increasing the Vertical Clearance by Providing intermediate tower in existing corridor of 66kV DG-3 & DG-4 D/C Lines between Tower number 70 & 72 by providing 1 No. of new proposed 110kV DA+3, NBT, KPTCL Design Tower near Hirandanahalli Lake in TLM Sub-Division Hoody, Bengaluru.

The bids will be received through E-Procurement tendering mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging onto KPTCL Website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **"E Procurement KPTCL"** or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **08.06.2026.** Further details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer(Ele.,),
Transmission(Operations)Circle-South, KPTCL,
Office complex, Ground Floor, A.R.Circle, Bengaluru.

BANNERGHATTA BIOLOGICAL PARK

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
BANNERGHATTA BIOLOGICAL PARK, BENGALURU - 83.
Phone No: 080-29776466/67 E-mail: ed@bannerughattabiopark.org

No:A3/BBP/e-Tender/S.Guards/CR-1/2026-27 Date: 05-06-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Deputy Director, Bannerghatta Biological Park, Bengaluru herein after referred as Tender Inviting Authority, has invited e-Tender for **"Providing Security Personnel for One year" i.e. for a period of one year (2026-27) from the date of Agreement.**

Detailed tender documents may be downloaded from the Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Tenders may be submitted along with the EMD and tender processing fees electronically in e-Proc **on or before 19-06-2026 upto 4.00 PM.** Technical bid will be Opened **on 22-06-2026 at 11.30 AM.** and Financial Bid will be Opened **on 25-06-2026 at 11.30 AM.**

Sd/-
Deputy Director

DIPR/CP/1041/Adverto/2026-27

Government of Goa
Department of Tourism
ParyatanBhavan, Patto, Panaji-Goa
Tel.0832-2494200, 2494211
Email: dir-tour.goa@nic.in Web: www.goatourism.gov.in

No.3/(5241)/2025/1453 Date: 08/06/2026

BRIEF TENDER NOTICE

(E-TENDERING MODE ONLY)

Department of Tourism, Government of Goa invites e-tenders from sole proprietorship, partnership firm, Limited Liability Partnership (LLP), private limited company registered under Companies Act 1956 or 2013, public limited company registered under Companies Act 1956 or 2013 or consortium of the above entities for **"DEVELOPMENT, OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF INTEGRATED F&B EXPERIENCE ZONE AT PANAJI GOA ON PPP BASIS".** Agencies interested in applying for the tender submit their duly filled application with complete information as required as per the tender document. The last date for submission of the tender is **03/07/2026** upto **4.30 pm**. For detailed Tender Notice and for participation in e-tender please visit our e-tender website **https://eprocure.goa.gov.in.** Tender notice is also available on official website goatourism.gov.in for reference. All pre-bid queries may be emailed to dir-tour.goa@nic.in on or before **17/06/2026** upto **5.30 pm** and site inspection of the project site is scheduled on **15/06/2026** between **10.30am to 12.00 Noon.**

Sd/-

DI/ADVT/599/2026

CITY CORPORATION BELAGAVI

C.T.S. No. 4821/26, 4821/27, R.S. No. 1005, Subhasha Nagara,
Belagavi, Ph. : 0831-2405304, E-mail : itstaff_ulb_belgaum@yahoo.com,
Website : www.belgaumcity.mrc.gov.in

No. : C.C.B./P.W.D./E.E./D.M./TND/E-Proc-04/2026-27
Date : 08-06-2026

RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Commissioner, City Corporation Belagavi invites tenders in accordance with KTPP Act 1999 Rules 2000 through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **for 07 Number of Electrical Works approved under Corporation Fund.**

1) Last Date for Queries : 18-06-2026 upto 5.00 p.m., 2) Pre-Bid Meeting : 19-06-2026 at 11.00 a.m. in Office of the Commissioner, City Corporation Belagavi, 3) Last Date for Receipt of Tender : 25-06-2026 upto 4.00 p.m., 4) Date for Opening of Technical Bid : 29-06-2026 at 11.00 a.m. in Office of the Commissioner, City Corporation Belagavi, 5) Date for Opening of Financial Bid : 30-06-2026 at 11.00 a.m. in Office of the Commissioner, City Corporation Belagavi.

For more details visit online **Website : https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Any Addendum / Corrigendum will be published in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only.

Sd/- Commissioner,
City Corporation Belagavi.

DIPR/Belagavi/385/Manipal/2026-27

Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM)

An initiative of the Govt of Karnataka

RFP Code: KDEM/RFP/01/2026-27 Dated: 05 June 2026

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Proposals are invited from reputed/ experienced firms/ companies/ agencies for the purpose of providing the following services:

Comprehensive Facility Management Services (CFMS) **for Global Technology Centre (GTC),** Mysuru,

The Last date of application: 6 July 2026, up to 5:30 PM

Tender Reference Number: **KDEM/2026-27/SE0007**

All the above RFP documents are available on the KPP portal- **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/).**

Details can also be obtained from our website: **www.karnatakadigital.in.**

For any queries: **cao.kdem@karnatakadigital.in**

Office of the Commissioner
Ballari City Corporation, Ballari.
Gadigi Chennappa Circle(Royal Circle) Ballari-583101
Landline No : 08392-273479 /278168
Website : www.ballaricity.mrc.gov.in
E-mail ID: ka.ballari.cc@gmail.com

No:CCB/ENG/AMRUTH 2.0/2026-27 Date:06.06.2026

CORRIGENDUM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP portal Only)

Tenders were already Inivited under 2025-26 Amrut 2.0 Scheme by Ballari City Corporation on 25.05.2026 which was published in Deccan Herald Newpaper on 31.05.2026 for the following works 1) DMA/2025-26/OW/Work_Indent 49795/Call-4-Rs.167.95 Lakhs, 2) DMA/2025-26/OW/Work_Indent 49792/ Call-4-Rs.62.81 Lakhs, 3) DMA/2025-26 / OW/ Work_Indent 49788/Call-4-Rs.94.37 Lakhs & 4) DMA/2025-26/OW/ Work_Indent 49790/Call-4-Rs.52.36 Lakhs, Modified dates are last date for submission of tender is on 15.06.2026 at 17.30 Hours, opening of technical bid is on 17.06.2026 at 10.30 Hours, technically qualified bidder's financial bid will be opened on 19.06.2026 at 10.30 Hours. For further details contact this office during working days.

Sd/- Commissioner,
Ballari City Corporation. Ballari.
DIPR/Ballari/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/216

Department of Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development

Office of the Executive Engineer M.I. & GWD Division, Mysore.

No. 06/2026-27 Dated: 06.06.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the Governer of Karnataka, the Executive Engineer, M.I. & GWD Division, Mysore invites tenders from registered and eligible contractors under **"Kppp"** Portal as per the terms and conditions prescribed in standard tender documents of **KW-3 and KW-2 for 02 works**, minimum tender **amount Rs 25.00 lakhs,** maxmium tender amount **Rs 75.00 Lakhs** and EMD amount minimum **Rs 0.50 lakhs** and maximum amount **Rs 1.50 lakhs**. The other tender details are given below.

1) Any information regarding this tender may be obtained from this office during office hours up to: **Date: 16.06.2026, 5-30 PM.**

2) Last date to upload the tenders with the prescribed E.M.D and requisite documents through website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in: Date: 17.06.2026, 5-30 PM.**

3) The bids will be opened: **Date: 19.06.2026, 11-00 AM.**

Note: Note: All the rights are reserved for postponement or cancellation of all bids or any individual bids of this tender notification without assigning any reasons by the under signed. The terms and conditions for each work is published in the "Kppp" Tender Portal. Any corrigendum pertains to above tender will be published in KPP Portal only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
MI & GWD Division, Mysore

DIPR/Mysore/276/SSC/2026-27

Unity in diversity

INDIA bloc is more divided than before, allowing the BJP to push ahead

Twenty-three Opposition parties aligned under the banner of the INDIA bloc met in the national capital on Monday, against the backdrop of countrywide concerns related to economic distress, inflation and the chaos in the educational sector. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of the Opposition (Lok Sabha) Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and the Trinamool Congress (TMC)'s Mamata Banerjee were among those who attended. Mr. Kharge announced five key decisions at the close of the meeting. The bloc resolved to write to the Chief Justice of India over concerns of electoral fraud and vote manipulation; demanded the immediate resignation of the Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan; called upon the central government to convene an all-party meeting to address the deepening economic crisis, farm distress and price rise; agreed to hold coordination meetings every two months, with the next one scheduled in Hyderabad in August; and committed to daily parliamentary coordination during sessions. The decisions signal a collective resolve to press the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on governance failures, particularly in the areas of economy and education, and to hold together an institutional framework for Opposition coordination.

The meeting followed evident fissures within the alliance that surfaced during the recent round of Assembly elections, in which constituent parties found themselves on opposing sides in several States. The shadow of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK)'s departure loomed large. The DMK, once the INDIA bloc's most powerful southern anchor, stayed away entirely, having formally announced its boycott on June 4. The decision stemmed from a bitter fallout following the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, where the Congress cut its long-standing ties with the DMK to join a coalition government led by actor-turned-politician C. Joseph Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam. The DMK's future plans *vis-à-vis* the Opposition remain subject to considerable speculation. The Aam Aadmi Party too chose to stay away, having formally declared that it was no longer part of the bloc. The TMC, yet another large constituent, is facing severe internal challenges after its electoral defeat in Bengal. The Left-Congress relationship too has soured, with both sides trading accusations of being ineffective in combatting communalism, or even worse, complicit in it. Taken together, these absences and tensions expose how fragile the coalition can be in a moment of crisis, and how deep the structural conflicts of interest run among its partners. That said, there appears to be a broad, if reluctant, consensus among the participants on two overriding imperatives: that checkmating the BJP remains essential to the political survival of each constituent party and to the health of Indian democracy, and that the Congress, for all its deficiencies and contradictions, remains the unavoidable pivot of any credible national, secular and progressive formation in India.

Strategic afterthought

The government must be transparent with the Nicobar project

For a project so often invoked as a matter of national security strategy, the ballooning Great Nicobar Island development, now estimated to be at ₹91,000 crore, rests on a remarkably thin strategic record. The Centre has long cited the "strategic" character of its centrepiece – a transshipment port at Galathea Bay – to withhold information on its environmental clearances. Yet, the Public Investment Board (PIB), a Finance Ministry body, found in August 2024 that the port "lacked strategic objectives". That label arrived only afterwards, from the Ministry of Defence and seems less like a founding rationale and more of an afterthought, retrofitted to a balance sheet. Both the PIB and the Public-Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC) cleared the proposal, yet the PPPAC refused ₹12,230 crore in Viability Gap Funding, telling the Ports Ministry to find the money within its own budget – an unusual rebuke for a venture sold as nationally vital. If the port cannot stand on commercial returns, and if its real purpose is military, the case for a commercial transshipment hub dissolves.

Great Nicobar sits at the southern tip of the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago, wrapped in tropical rainforest and ringed by reefs of rare ecological value. The project – port, international airport, power plant and township – would clear vast tracts of that forest, much of it primary, and disturb the nesting beaches of the leatherback turtle and the habitat of the endemic Nicobar megapode. Scientists who have studied the island warn that the loss would be irreversible, and that no afforestation elsewhere can replace what is felled here. The island's indigenous inhabitants have objections of their own, running alongside the ecological ones but not reducible to them. Tribal councils have said that consent was secured without full disclosure, and asked that ancestral land and the resettlement promised after the 2004 tsunami not be overridden by the project. Their criticism is not a refusal of all development. The quarrel is with scale, secrecy and sequence – a project conceived at a magnitude the island cannot absorb. The remedy is transparency. The Centre should release the High-Powered Committee report in full, account openly for the true cost to the public exchequer, and weigh it against an environmental loss that the exchequer can never reimburse. A project of this scale owes the country at least that much.

A troubling judgment and endorsement of the SIR

P.D.T. Achary

Former Secretary General, Lok Sabha

The judgment of the Supreme Court of India, delivered on May 27, 2026, on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, has thrown up many disturbing questions about the powers, the role and the conduct of the Election Commission of India (ECI) in the context of the exercise of its powers in the preparation and revision of electoral rolls.

Although this case is related to the operationalisation of the SIR in Bihar, the issues dealt with by the Court and its findings have far-reaching implications for the right of Indian citizens to be included in electoral rolls. In its 124-page judgment, the Court dealt with all the important points raised by the petitioners against the SIR but refused to concede even a single one of them. On the other hand, the Court accepted all the arguments made by the ECI and further elucidated them.

Revisiting electoral roll revision

When the SIR was begun in Bihar just a few months before the Assembly election in Bihar, in 2025, serious reservations were expressed about the advisability of undertaking such a comprehensive and intensive revision of the electoral rolls in such haste. Apart from the inexplicably compressed timeline for completing the intensive revision of the electoral rolls, serious questions were raised about the statutory backing for such an exercise. There have been a number of articles in this daily highlighting the ECI's deviations from statutory provisions in the implementation of the SIR. So, in light of the Court's judgment upholding the ECI's actions and methods, it is useful to revisit the statutory and constitutional provisions governing electoral roll preparation and revision and assess the judgment accordingly.

Article 325 of the Constitution declares that there shall be one general electoral roll for every territorial constituency in the country and that no person shall be ineligible for inclusion in such a roll solely on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or any of them. Article 326 says that the elections to the Lok Sabha and the Assemblies shall be on the basis of adult suffrage – which means every citizen who is 18 years and above is entitled to be registered as a voter at any such election. The other condition for inclusion in the roll is that he should not be disqualified under the Constitution or any law. Article 327 empowers Parliament to make laws for dealing with all aspects of elections including the preparation of electoral rolls. Article 324 confers the power to prepare the rolls and conduct the elections on the ECI. Preparation of electoral rolls which includes revision is governed by the Representation of the People (RP) Act, 1950 and the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960. Section 21 of the RP Act deals with preparation and revision of the electoral rolls. Sections 21(2) and (3) which contained the framework of revision say in (a)(i)/(ii), electoral roll shall be revised before each general election to the Lok Sabha or the Assembly and before each by-election, (b) the roll shall be revised in any year if directed by the ECI; and Section 21(3) says that the ECI may do a special revision of the roll for any constituency or part of a constituency at any time after recording the reasons for such revision. Rule 25 of the Registration of Electors Rules says that the revision of the rolls under Section 21 (2) of the Act before the general election or by-election can be summary or intensive, which clearly implies that such revision just before the general election can be only summary considering the elaborate scheme of an intensive revision under the rules.

The top court's verdict raises constitutional concerns and casts a shadow over past electoral rolls

The framework

The question, then, is: under which category of revision does the SIR fall? The Court says that it is traceable to Section 21(3) which deals with a special revision in any constituency or a part of a constituency. But the clause does not permit an intensive revision but only a special revision. SIR is a special and intensive revision of the rolls. Intensive revision according to Rule 25 is done only under Section 21(2) and not 21(3) of the Act as the judgment claims. A careful reading of Sections 21(2) and (3) of the RP Act 1950 and Rule 25 of the Registration of Electors Rules 1960 would reveal that an intensive revision of the roll in a State can be undertaken only when the general election or by-election is not due. It is obvious that an intensive revision is not contemplated by the law when the elections are due because of the comprehensive nature of the revision which requires a much longer time to complete.

Now, as regards the special revision under Section 21(3), it is actually meant to be done in a constituency or a part of a constituency and not the whole State or the country. The claim made in the judgment that "any constituency" means all constituencies does not square with the context. The word "any" may mean 'all' in some contexts whereas it would mean 'single' in some other context. The words "or a part of constituency" following "any constituency" make it clear that the special revision is meant to be done only in a constituency or part of it. When intensive revision is clearly provided in Section 21(2) there is no need to provide the same in Section 21(3). Special revision may become necessary in some constituencies because of, say, the large-scale influx of people into that area from a neighbouring area. Special revision is done in a manner fixed by the ECI whereas intensive revision under Section 21(2) needs to be done as per the prescribed procedure.

The analysis above would show that the entire SIR exercise is being done under a wrong provision of law. In the States of Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and West Bengal, the SIR was done a few months before the Assembly election. Under Section 21(2)(a) read with Rules 25 only a summary revision was possible before the Assembly election. But the ECI went ahead with the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in clear deviation from the scheme of the law, resulting in the deletion of millions of voters from the electoral rolls without providing them any effective redress.

The issue of citizenship

The judgment grants great freedom to the ECI in the matter of determining the documents to prove citizenship. The crucial point is whether the ECI can determine what documents are required to prove citizenship. This is a function to be performed by the Home Ministry as it administers the law on citizenship. The ECI's role is to verify citizen-related documents. What actually happened was that the ECI announced a list of documents and asked the voters to produce them. The ECI was simply usurping the role of the Union Home Ministry. It is extremely surprising that during the hearing the Supreme Court did not ask the Union Home Ministry to file an affidavit containing the list of documents required to prove citizenship. The Court has now conceded the ECI's authority to determine the question of citizenship for the purpose of inclusion in or exclusion from the electoral rolls, while leaving the larger question of citizenship to the competent authority, namely the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Ministry of Home Affairs will now have to decide the cases of millions of Indian citizens who will never be able to vote in their lifetime and who will face numerous disabilities arising from the denial of citizenship, albeit on a tentative basis.

The Court has hitherto applauded the work done all these years by the ECI since its establishment. But the SIR judgment speaks about the "cumulative inaccuracies in the voters list" and the "structural deficiencies that pervaded the entire roll" in the past. It is a damning indictment of the preparation and the revision of electoral rolls done by the ECI in the past. The judgment need not have gone to such an extent in order to justify the SIR of 2025.

The Oman CEPA, a new gateway for India's exports

Anant Goenka

President, The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)

India and Oman share one of the oldest trading relationships, with commercial and maritime links dating back thousands of years. From the movement of spices, textiles and frankincense to enduring people-to-people ties, trade has long been a cornerstone of this partnership. The India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), which came into force on June 1, 2026, reaffirms and strengthens this historic relationship by providing a modern framework to deepen trade, investment and economic cooperation for the future.

India is amongst the top suppliers for Oman and bilateral trade has grown from $8.94 billion in FY2023-24 to $11.18 billion in FY2025-26, reflecting the growing complementarities between the two economies.

An expansion of India's trade ties

The CEPA comes at a time when India is actively diversifying its trade partnerships and integrating more deeply with global value chains. Following agreements with the United Arab Emirates, Australia, the European Free Trade Association, the United Kingdom, New Zealand and the European Union, the Oman CEPA further strengthens India's presence in a region that is central to its energy security, trade and strategic interests.

The CEPA offers significant opportunities for Indian exporters. Oman has offered duty-free access on 98.08% of its tariff lines, covering 99.38% of India's exports by value. Before the agreement, only 15.33% of India's exports entered Oman at zero duty under the Most Favoured Nation regime. The CEPA, therefore, provides an immediate competitiveness boost across a broad range of sectors. In textiles and apparel, India already commands a 43% share of Oman's woven apparel imports and 31% of knitted apparel imports. The removal of the existing 5% tariff will strengthen the competitiveness of Indian manufacturers against China, which is the other dominant supplier in this market. In the case of chemicals, India already supplies nearly 39% of Oman's inorganic chemical imports, making it one of the leading players in the market. Tariff free access will only amplify this further.

The agreement boosts exports, services, investment and professional mobility

Likewise, engineering goods will also benefit. Oman imports over $3.7 billion worth of mechanical machinery and $3.3 billion worth of automotives annually, where India's market share is only 5% and 2%, respectively. Preferential market access under the CEPA can help Indian exports of engineering goods expand significantly and deepen their presence in Oman's infrastructure, construction and industrial sectors.

In pharmaceuticals, where India holds around 10% market share, the agreement's value lies not in tariff reductions but in regulatory facilitation. Products approved by leading international regulators will benefit from fast-tracked approvals, reducing compliance costs and accelerating market entry. As Oman's pharmaceutical market continues to expand, Indian companies will be well-positioned to capture a larger share. Duty-free access for products such as meat, eggs, honey, butter and processed foods will further strengthen India's already strong position. At the same time, sensitive sectors such as dairy, cereals, edible oils and several agricultural commodities have been kept outside tariff concessions, ensuring that domestic producers remain protected.

Streamlining procedures

Significant trade facilitation measures have been introduced. Oman will accept certificates issued by India's Export Inspection Council (EIC), eliminating duplicative testing and inspections, while also recognising India's organic (NPOP) and halal certification systems. There are dedicated sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) and technical barriers to trade (TBT) provisions, which will enhance regulatory transparency and cooperation, and streamlined customs clearance, including fast-track processing for perishables, which will reduce costs and improve export efficiency.

Another forward-looking aspect of the CEPA is its strong focus on services and professional mobility. Bilateral services trade stood at $863 million in 2024, with India enjoying a surplus of nearly $447 million. Yet, India's share in Oman's global services imports remains just over 5%, indicating substantial untapped potential.

Oman has undertaken binding commitments covering professionals in sectors such as accounting, engineering, information technology, health care, education and consulting. Oman also raises the quotas for intra-corporate transferees, facilitating greater mobility of Indian professionals and specialists. Provisions relating to AYUSH and traditional medicine further create opportunities for Indian health care and wellness services in the Gulf.

Strategic location advantage

Beyond trade statistics, the CEPA has a larger strategic significance. Oman occupies a unique position at the crossroads of the Gulf, the Indian Ocean and East Africa. Its ports at Sohar, Duqm and Salalah are emerging as major logistics and industrial hubs. For Indian businesses, Oman can serve not only as a destination market but also as a gateway to the wider Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region and East African economies.

The India-Oman CEPA once again demonstrates the evolution of India's trade policy from tariff negotiations to comprehensive economic partnerships encompassing goods, services, investment, mobility and regulatory cooperation. Its benefits will extend from textile clusters in Tamil Nadu and the gems and jewellery industry in Gujarat to engineering hubs in Maharashtra and Punjab, and from pharmaceutical manufacturers in Telangana to seafood exporters in Andhra Pradesh and Kerala.

The real test will now lie in implementation and utilisation. If businesses actively leverage the opportunities created by the agreement, the CEPA can significantly expand India's export footprint, strengthen economic integration with the Gulf, and support the country's broader ambition of becoming a globally competitive manufacturing and services powerhouse. For India, the agreement opens not only the Omani market but also a broader gateway to the Gulf and beyond.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Nepal's claim

The reports, "Not seeking mediation on border dispute: Nepal FM" (June 8), "No role for third parties in bilateral matters between India, Nepal: Centre" (June 3), and "Nepal PM sparks row, says his country has encroached upon Indian territory" (June 1), are interesting points of contrast. But the candid admission by Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah, of Nepal's encroachment on Indian territory, should shock New Delhi. Did India have any inkling of such an encroachment? The Ministry of External Affairs should take cognisance of the issue. In all fairness, the Nepal Prime Minister should volunteer to return the encroached territory to India as a gesture of goodwill.

C.V. Aravind,
Bengaluru

The difference now

Today's youth engage with public issues differently from previous generations. The recent Gen Z mobilisation over educational policies and systemic failures has shown how a discussion or idea on social media can rapidly evolve into large-scale protests. This growing participation reflects a generation that values transparency and accountability in governance and seeks a greater voice in shaping its future. Constructive engagement with their concerns would be far more effective than dismissing their voices.

Navaneeth S. Kumar,
Kollam, Kerala

Border crossings

When I visited the Petrapole-Benapole border in West Bengal in 2002, it was striking to see hundreds of people carrying headloads of rice across the border under the nose of the BSF. In these circumstances, one wonders whether the 'concerns' over the formation of a High-Level Committee on Demographic Change amount to intellectual overreaction.

K. Chellappan,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

The trust deficit in India-Bangladesh ties

Kallol Bhattacherjee

More than hundred days have passed since the Tarique Rahman government took charge in Bangladesh. However, contrary to early expectations from his leadership, India-Bangladesh relations have remained more or less the same as in the difficult months of the interim government.

Actions, not rhetoric

India reached out twice before Mr. Rahman became the Bangladesh Prime Minister. The first outreach was by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar who visited Dhaka on December 31, 2025 to condole the passing of Mr. Rahman's mother, former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. The second time was through Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, who carried Prime Minister Narendra Modi's invitation letter, and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla who on February 17 participated in the swearing-in ceremony of Mr. Rahman. But sources in the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) say such gestures in themselves are insufficient. An influential segment within the BNP feel that as a goodwill gesture towards the new government, India should have reversed some of the retributory steps that it had taken during the interim government's rule under Muhammad Yunus. These steps included the restarting of transhipments for goods from Bangladesh, full restoration of visa services including business and medical visas, and stopping the restrictive market access for Bangladeshi goods. None of these measures have been implemented so far, as per Dhaka. They argue that, by not reversing these decisions, India has not delivered any advance incentives to Mr. Rahman who will have to engage with the Jamaat-e-Islami and several anti-India student outfits before normalising ties with India.

On its part, the BNP's veteran leaders have tried to smoothen the relationship by creating greater public acceptability of the position that the presence of the deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in India will not hold ties back, a departure from the hardline stance that the interim government had taken. Here also, Dhaka feels that such attempts have not found appreciation from the Indian side.

As proof they refer to the aggressive use of 'illegal immigration' in official communication from Delhi following the victory of the Bharatiya Janata Party in West Bengal and Assam. Bangladeshi diplomats have pointed out that Dhaka expected less rhetoric on sensitive issues such as illegal immigration, and more focus on issues such as visa restoration and the renewal of the 1996 Ganga Water Treaty.

Dhaka had sent Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman to Delhi on April 7-8 for a brief visit, to test the waters, where he met National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Mr. Jaishankar. However, the election campaign in Assam and West Bengal around Bangladesh-related issues and a flurry of interviews by exiled PM Sheikh Hasina have displayed that Mr. Rahman's BNP, despite winning a landslide majority in Bangladesh, has not managed to impress India. While a senior diplomat in Dhaka said that Bangladesh was assured that the language around State elections would not reflect New Delhi's foreign policy, the Ministry of External Affairs' strident position on illegal immigration have generated 'a sense of betrayal' in Dhaka's secretariat.

According to reports, Mr. Rahman, sensing that the window for restoration of ties with India is not opening as per expectations, is in the final stages of considering visits to Malaysia and China that are likely to take place in the last week of June.

Bangladesh's dilemma

This turn to China however cannot hide the fact that it is incumbent on Bangladesh, as much as it is on India, to repair bilateral ties. Bangladesh's ties with India remain broken because of the 2024 uprising and the subsequent interim rule whereas its ties with China, the U.S. and other players have prospered since August 2024. Further, a pragmatic assessment shows that without steady assurance from India on the main river Padma (Ganga), Bangladesh's other plans are not expected to proceed smoothly beyond 2026. River affairs expert Ainun Nishat has stated that a delay in the renewal of the 30-year-old Ganga treaty will put the Ganges-Kobadak irrigation project in a challenging situation affecting vast portions of western and central Bangladesh. The lack of predictable water supply will affect the upcoming sowing seasons, hurting Bangladesh's economy that is already dealing with the crippling effects of the energy crisis because of the U.S.-Israel war on Iran.

The compounded effect of these disruptive forces will increase pressure on the Tarique Rahman government that is already under criticism for its inept handling of the worst measles outbreak in the country that has claimed the lives of at least 600 infants. Critics have targeted the government for its weak handling of the health crisis as well as the growing incidents of sexual violence, which is a symptom of the breakdown of law and order in the country that is yet to make a recovery since the protests of August 2024. Rivals, including Sheikh Hasina's Awami League that are mobilising on the ground despite a ban, will be strengthened if Mr. Rahman fails to renew the Ganga river agreement with Delhi before the deadline of December 31, 2026.

Such material factors on the ground call for pragmatism in both the capitals as the challenges will soon overwhelm Bangladesh, reverting it to instability, which again is not in India's immediate or long-term interests.

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Bangladeshi diplomats have pointed out that Dhaka expected less rhetoric on illegal immigration, and more focus on issues such as the renewal of the 1996 Ganga Water Treaty

A boost for the Karnataka workforce

The notification on minimum wages is a step in the right direction

STATE OF PLAY

Mohan Mani

In May, the Karnataka government released the notification on minimum wages, equalising wages across 81 sectors of employment, with an average wage increase of 60% over existing levels. As per the notification, the minimum wage for unskilled workers will be ₹23,376 per month in Bengaluru, and ₹19,318 per month in small towns and rural areas. This difference of over ₹4,000 between wages in Bengaluru and the small towns is a reflection of the runaway inflation in metro cities. This move, which acknowledges the high cost of living in urban metros, is commendable.

In media interviews, the Karnataka Labour Minister said the minimum wage revision was carried out as per the directions of the Supreme Court. This highlights an often ignored fact of the jurisprudence around minimum wage in India – that the method for minimum wage determination is elaborately laid out and uniformly applicable across the country. Despite such a formula, the wide variation in prevailing minimum wages across States reflects the power of employers, and the complicity of labour departments in keeping wages below what is statutorily mandated.

Employers claim that higher wages drive up product costs and increase product demand thus fuelling inflation. However, reducing the wages of those at the lowest deciles of the Indian population in order to curtail their consumption cannot be the way to control inflation. Moreover, government statistics indicate that the consumption levels of

the average household are yet to reach pre-COVID levels. There are other mechanisms available to the Government to control inflation, including adjusting the GST structure to control product costs.

Employers further claim that increasing wages will drive out industry. This is not necessarily true. The contribution of wages to total cost in most sectors is declining. Wages are not the only determinants of investment decisions. Several other factors such as infrastructure, economic climate, availability of skilled workforce, and industrial peace are equally important. The recent protests by garment and other factory workers in the National Capital Region region and in Uttar Pradesh for higher wages were a stark reminder of workers' poverty and their desperation. It highlighted the importance of decent wages to ensure industrial peace.

Missing aspects

However, there remain important lacunae in the notification. First, it leaves out four important sectors: garment work, *beedi* rolling, *agarbathi* making and plantation work. All four sectors employ a large number of workers, with the majority being women. With the implementation of this notification, the wages of the workers in these four sectors would become around half the wages of the workers at a comparable skill level in the other 81 sectors covered by the notification. *Beedi* rolling, which is primarily home-based work, highlights the inter-generational perils of poorly paid employment. Children share the same space as their mothers, who are rolling *beedis*, which often results in them getting pulled into helping their mothers, restricting their ability to break out of the poverty trap. A decent minimum wage linked piece rate for *beedi* rolling could increase the options for these children.

Another issue is regarding the Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA). The VDA is meant to safeguard real wages against inflation for the period between two wage fixations, mandated to happen once every five years. The points-based wage neutralisation system in Karnataka unfortunately only protects fully real wages in the lowest unskilled categories. For the higher categories of semi-skilled and skilled workers, such protection is only partial. Further, with every wage revision, the old VDA formula becomes inadequate to protect real wages, and the points need to be revised. There have been union led court cases in the past for VDA revision along with wage revisions. The present notification should also address this lacuna.

The minimum wage notification is still a positive step, holding out potential for equitable growth in the State. It can also serve as an example for other States. It highlights an alternative paradigm, important at this time of increasing wealth disparity – that profits without super-exploitation should be the route to the "ease of doing business".

Mohan Mani is a Visiting Fellow, National Law School of India University, Bengaluru

DATA POINT

A World Cup like no other

On June 11, the Estadio Azteca in Mexico City will host the kick-off of the FIFA World Cup, the world's most-watched sporting tournament, whose winner will lift the cup 38 days later, after the final in New Jersey on July 19. That 2026 is the longest World Cup ever is only one of the things setting it apart from every edition since 1930. The charts below explore a few other factors of this tournament, with the most matches ever (104) and the largest participation yet – 48 countries. They include Curaçao, the Caribbean constituent country of the Netherlands, whose population of 1.6 lakh is nearly twice the seating capacity of the Azteca

MAP 1: The tournament is hosted by three countries, the U.S., Canada and Mexico, which is a first. It is being held across 16 venues, which is the second-highest after the 2002 edition, when matches happened across 20 cities in South Korea and Japan

CHART 2: This shows the geographical spread. Hypothetically, a fan, wanting to watch at least one match in all 16 venues, should travel a minimum of 11,347 kms as the crow flies. This was only 70 kms in 2022, between five cities in Qatar

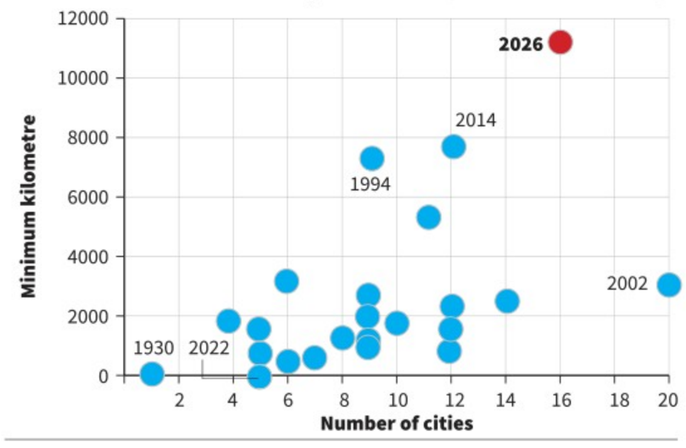


CHART 3: The event stands out for a few notorious reasons, including the sky-high ticket fares. This shows the price ranges as of June 8, 2026 6 p.m. IST

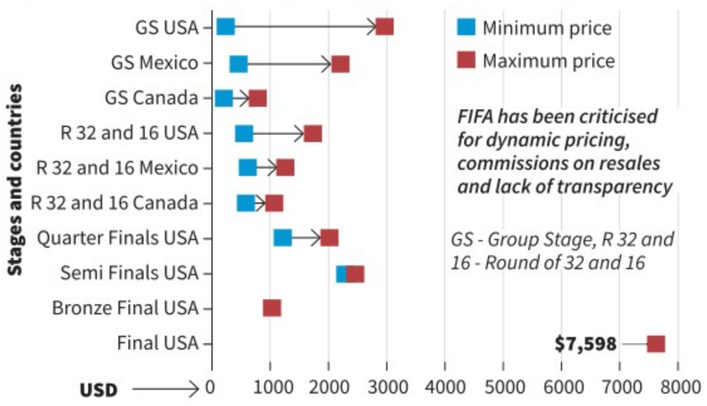

Stages and countries
GS USA
GS Mexico
GS Canada
R 32 and 16 USA
R 32 and 16 Mexico
R 32 and 16 Canada
Quarter Finals USA
Semi Finals USA
Bronze Final USA
Final USA
Minimum price
Maximum price
FIFA has been criticised for dynamic pricing, commissions on resales and lack of transparency
GS - Group Stage, R 32 and 16 - Round of 32 and 16
$7,598
USD

CHART 5: 2026 could see a competition between 37-year-old Messi, for whom this is likely to be the last World Cup, and 27-year-old Mbappe, to set a new record as the highest goal-scorer in a World Cup

CHART 6: The chart shows the highest, lowest and average rankings in the 12 groups of four members each. Shorter the line, the tighter the competition within the group

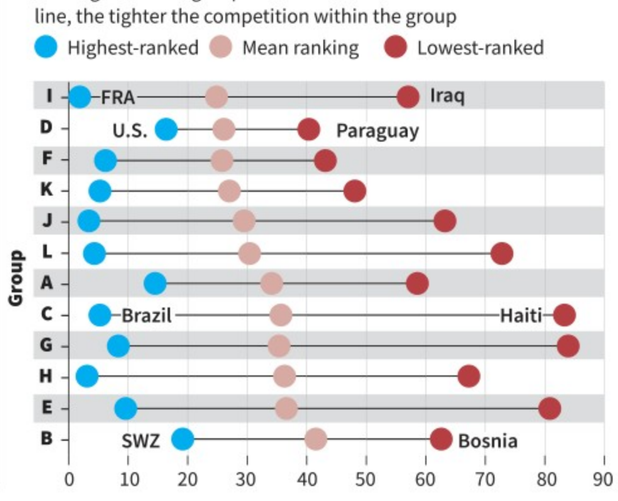


CHART 4: Though the number of goals have increased over the years, the average goals scored per match has plateaued around 2.6 in recent years

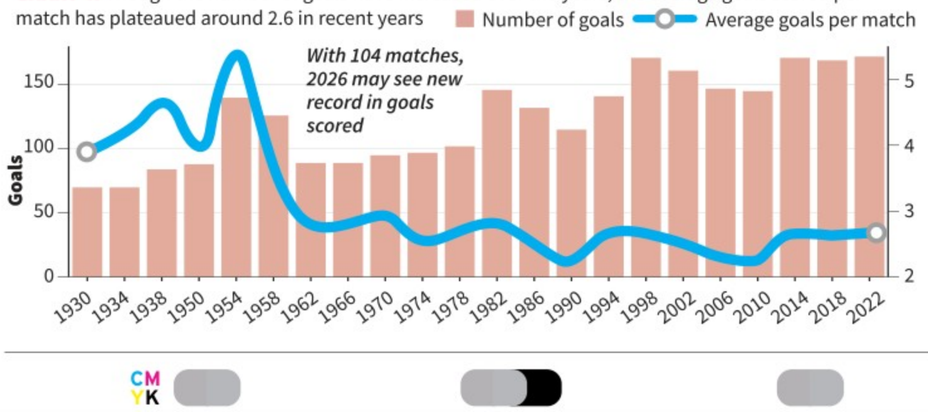
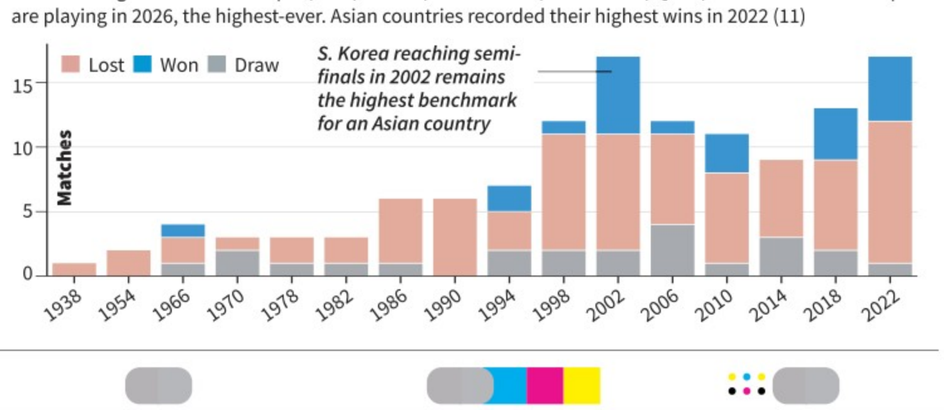


CHART 7: Eight from Asia — Japan, Iran, Jordan, South Korea, Uzbekistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Iraq — are playing in 2026, the highest-ever. Asian countries recorded their highest wins in 2022 (11)



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 9, 1976

ICF likely to produce tramcars

Madras, June 8: The Integral Coach factory is likely to manufacture tramcars for Calcutta Tramways. The factory authorities are now negotiating with the Tramway company, the details of producing 100 numbers of 2-car sets (200 trams). Each set will cost about Rs. seven lakhs.

Disclosing this at a press conference here to-day, Mr. J. Mathan, General Manager, said that the ICF had extra capacity and hence was trying to branch out to a new line of production. At present, it was manufacturing 535 shells and 518 coaches out of a rate capacity of 700 in each. Even now, the factory was deploying its workers to repairs of wagons and coaches of the Indian Railways, as the zonal railways did not have adequate capacity for carrying out these repairs.

The motors for the trams would be manufactured and supplied by the Bharat Heavy Electricals. Between 1968 and 1975, the ICF had supplied to many nations in Asia and Africa over 309 bogies and 266 coaches costing over Rs. 10 crores. An order for supply of 17 metre gauge coaches for East African Railways at a cost of Rs. 2.15 crore was expected to be completed by July.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 9, 1926

Progress of monsoon

Simla, June 8: A feeble advance of the Arabian sea monsoon has given general rain in Malabar and Bombay Deccan. Bay monsoon is strengthening. The western disturbance has passed away. Rainfall has been nearly general in Lower Burma, Malabar, Bombay Deccan, Local in Assam, North Hyderabad while a few falls occurred in Upper Burma, Bengal, Bihar, East Rajaputana, East Central Provinces, South Hyderabad and South East Madras. Chief amounts are: – Mergui, Rangoon 3-4, Tavoy, Kyaukpyu 1, Maymo 1 and a half, Berhampore, Mymensingh 3-4, Udaipur 1-2, Jagdalpur 3, Cochin 2, Poona, Sholapur, Cuddalore 1-2, Kodaikanala 1 inch.

Temperature is appreciably above normal in central parts of the country and North East of the Peninsula.

Forecast of monsoon rainfall for 1926: – Monsoon rainfall is likely to be normal in the Peninsula and in north-east India but in some defect in north west India.

From Page One

20 Trinamool MPs plan to form a separate bloc

Trinamool Congress Rajya Sabha member Sukhendu Sekhar Roy, who resigned from the party and the Upper House of Parliament, was also present at the meeting.

Among the 20 rebel MPs were Howrah MP Prasun Banerjee, Bankura MP Anup Chakraborty, Cooch Behar MP Jagadish Chandra Barma Basunia, Bolpur Lok Sabha MP Asit Kumar Mal, Birbhum MP Satabdi Roy, Jhargram MP Kalipada Soren and Bardhaman Purba MP Sharmila Sarkar.

The meeting was held not far from the gathering at Constitution Club of India where Trinamool chairperson Mamata Banerjee and her nephew Abhishek Banerjee took part in the INDIA bloc meeting.

Later in the day, the West Bengal Chief Minister reached the residence of Trinamool MP Satabdi Roy in the national capital and held a meeting with about 10 MPs of the rebel camp.

Meanwhile, former Kolkata Mayor and Mamata Banerjee's close aide Firhad Hakim met Ritabrata Banerjee at the West Bengal Assembly. Mr. Hakim, a Trinamool Congress legislator, had recently quit as Mayor of Kolkata.

Weighing in on the political developments, Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh posted on X: "The Union Minister of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change who looked after elections in West Bengal has spent the day poaching. This Minister's special job is to nab poachers and prevent poaching and not be one himself."

Eight killed in blast at Visakhapatnam plant

A 24x7 control room has been set up at the Collectorate (phone numbers 0891-2590100 and 2590102) to coordinate with officials and relatives of the victims.

The RINL is the corporate entity of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP).

Speaking to *The Hindu*, the District Manager of 108 Ambulance Services M. Suresh stated that 10 ambulances were deployed to the site immediately following instructions from the District Medical and Health Officer (DMHO) and Collector. "We have shifted several victims with severe burns ranging from 40% to 90% while five ambulances remain stationed at the spot to assist rescue teams," Mr. Suresh said.

Heavy Smoke Hampers Rescue Operations

Earlier, dense smoke and towering flames had trapped several personnel inside the shop floor of the facility. Fire tenders and emergency rescue teams from both the steel plant and State departments rushed to the location and were working late into the night under hazardous conditions to douse the flames and rescue the stranded workers.

Police officials tracking the rescue operation noted that the molten metal was kept at an ultra-high temperature of nearly 1,600 degrees Celsius before it spilled, making immediate access to the core blast zone extremely difficult.

INDIA bloc to take SIR complaints to CJI

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav cautioned that after the setbacks in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, defeating the BJP in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly election early next year would be crucial.

While acknowledging the Congress's pan-India presence, he urged it to be "large-hearted" and allow dominant regional parties to take the lead wherever appropriate.

According to sources, he also flagged the earlier exit of Janata Dal (United) leader Nitish Kumar, suggesting that the outcome of the 2024 general election might have differed had he stayed.

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav echoed the criticism, saying that despite warnings about possible cross-voting by Congress MLAs in the recent Rajya Sabha election in Bihar, no action had been taken.

CPI(M) leader John Brittas said Rahul Gandhi, as the face of the INDIA bloc, should have refrained from making unsubstantiated allegations against the Kerala government during the Assembly campaign.

Israel, Iran warn each other against escalation

Earlier, U.S. President Donald Trump demanded that Israel and Iran "immediately stop 'shooting'". The flurry of attacks drove oil prices up around 4% and threatened to wreck efforts towards a deal to end the war.

The semi-official Fars and Mehr news agencies said Israeli strikes hit a petrochemical factory in the city of Mahshahr. The Israeli military confirmed the strike on the plant, saying it targeted sites that produce materials for ballistic missiles. Israel said it also targeted truck-based missile launchers.

Israel said its strikes were in response to an Iranian missile attack. Tehran had warned on Sunday that it would retaliate after Israel struck Beirut's southern suburbs without warning.

24 Indian sailors rescued from ship attacked by U.S.

Marivex, sanctioned by the U.S. last December, had earlier carried Iranian oil to India; U.S. Central Command says the tanker violated the ongoing blockade by attempting to sail to an Iranian port

M. Kalyanaraman
Debayan Tewari
CHENNAI

Twenty-four Indian seafarers were rescued from tanker *Marivex*, a ship sanctioned by the U.S. for Iran links, off the south-eastern coast of Oman on Monday, after a U.S. missile strike.

The sailors sent distress messages to a Forward Seamen's Union of India (FSUI) office-bearer that the U.S. Navy had attacked the ship's engine room.

Audio messages from the seafarers to Manoj Yadav, general secretary of FSUI, received at 2 p.m. (India time) say: "This is Motor Tanker Marivex. Fire on board. Vessel is sinking. U.S. Navy attacked with missile our engine room. We have a hole at the bottom."

U.S. Central Command (Centcom) said in a statement that "U.S. forces disabled (attacked) an unladen oil tanker in the Gulf of Oman, June 8, after the vessel violated the ongoing blockade against Iran by attempting to sail to an Iranian port. An F/A-18 Super Hornet from USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) fired a precision munition into the ship's engineering and steering spaces after the crew failed to comply with directions from U.S. forces. Marivex is no longer sailing to Iran."

Smoke rises from *Marivex*, off the coast of Oman, on Monday, after a suspected U.S. missile attack. FSUI

The Marivex crew's distress message says that there was a U.S. warship nearby that was not helping, neither was there an immediate response from the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre. Video clips sent to Mr. Yadav show a seafarer from the ship pointing to a warship nearby. The audio messages say the lifeboats on one side of the ship were also hit in the attack and the other side lifeboats were not accessible due to a fire that had broken out.

Eventually, a rescue operation evacuated the 24 Indian seafarers, who had moved to the front-end of the ship since the back-end of the vessel was on fire, through helicopter.

The seafarers are now on the Masirah Island in Oman, and safe, said Mr. Yadav. "All of them are in a state of shock and most of them have lost their phones. They are expected to reach India in two days," he said.

'Tanker was empty'

A statement from the Centre said a "fire incident was reported today aboard the vessel *MT MARIVEX* at approximately 13:30 hours off the coast of Oman."

Earlier, at a news briefing, Opesh Kumar Sharma, director at the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, declined to comment on the cause of the fire. "The vessel has 24 Indian seafarers, all are reported to be safe," he said. He added the tanker was empty and located away from the Strait of Hormuz.

Marivex is a ship sanctioned by the U.S. government last December, as per shipping database Equasis.

Marivex was one of the few ships that exited the Strait of Hormuz on April 9 just when the ceasefire was declared. It had then carried crude oil from Bandar Abbas in Iran to Mangalore. *Marivex* has been operating in the "conflict zone", said Mr. Yadav.

President Droupadi Murmu confers Kirti Chakra on Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair during a ceremony in New Delhi. PTI

President presents gallantry awards to security personnel

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Monday conferred seven Kirti Chakras, including two posthumously, on personnel of the armed forces for displaying raw courage, unparalleled bravery and total disregard for personal safety in the line of duty.

Air Commodore Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, an Indian Air Force pilot and Gaganyatri, was also among the recipients of the Kirti Chakra, India's second-highest peacetime gallantry award. Ms. Murmu also conferred 15 Vir Chakras, including three posthumously, and 29 Shaurya Chakras, including one posthumously, on the personnel of the defence forces, Central Armed Police Forces and State and Union Territory police forces during Phase 1 of the Defence Investiture Ceremony hosted at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Lt. Commander Dilna K. and Lt. Commander Roopa A. of the Navy were among the Shaurya Chakra recipients. The President presented the award to them for their bravery and devotion to duty in '*Navika Sagar Parikrama* 2'.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also attended the ceremony. In a post on X, he said, "We are proud of their extraordinary courage, commitment and selfless service to the nation."

India expanded its nuclear arsenal in 2025, says SIPRI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The report estimates India's military expenditure at $92.1 billion, an increase of 8.9% from last year

India is estimated to have modestly expanded its nuclear arsenal in 2025 and continued developing new nuclear delivery systems, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Yearbook 2026 released on Monday.

The report estimated that India's nuclear stockpile had increased to around 190 warheads by early 2026. The country had around 180 such warheads in 2025.

SIPRI noted that New Delhi's ongoing nuclear modernisation programme is increasingly focused on developing longer-range weapons capable of reaching targets across China, while continuing to address security concerns arising from its long-standing rivalry with Pakistan.

The annual assessment of global armaments, disarmament and international security also highlighted the May 2025 India-Pakistan military confrontation, describing Operation Sindoor as an "unusually severe military crisis" between the two nuclear-armed neighbours.

According to SIPRI, India carried out strikes during the conflict against Pakistani air and missile bases that were likely to have nuclear-related roles. However, the institute observed that both countries took measures to prevent further escalation despite heightened tensions.

The report further noted that India and Pakistan integrated cyberoperations into active military conflict for the first time during the crisis, underscoring the evolving nature of modern warfare and deterrence in South Asia.

Beyond the nuclear domain, India retained its position as the world's fifth-largest military spender in 2025. SIPRI estimated India's military expenditure at $92.1 billion, an increase of 8.9% over the previous year. The country ranked behind only the United States, China, Russia and Germany in defence spending.

India also remained the world's second-largest importer of major arms during the 2021-25 period, accounting for 8.2% of global arms imports. SIPRI identified Ukraine, India, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Pakistan as the five largest arms importers, collectively accounting for 35% of global imports during the period.

Modernising arsenals

The report said all nine nuclear-armed states – the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, North Korea, and Israel – continued to modernise their arsenals and increasingly relied on nuclear weapons as instruments of national power. Globally, the nine countries possessed an estimated 12,187 nuclear warheads at the start of 2026, of which around 9,745 were held in military stockpiles for potential use.

'India, China should see each other as partners, not rivals'

Press Trust of India
BEIJING

China and India should stick to the "right strategic perception" that they are not rivals but cooperative partners and opportunities for each other's development, not threats, a top Chinese official said on Monday.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian made the remarks at a media briefing here in response to a question on Russian President Vladimir Putin's comments on Sino-India relations and Moscow's efforts to maintain close ties with both countries.

The China-India border situation is at the moment generally stable and the two sides have smooth communication, Mr. Lin said.

Beijing has been reiterating for a while that India and China should not regard each other as rivals but cooperative partners. Mr. Lin's response adds "right strategic perception" to that oft-repeated narrative.

"The two sides need to view and handle the bilateral relations from a strategic height and long-term perspective, enhance mutual trust, expand cooperation, properly handle differences, and promote the sound and steady development of China-India relations," he said.

Lin Jian, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson

Commenting on India, China and Russia ties, Mr. Lin said all three countries are emerging economies.

"Maintaining sound relations is not only in the respective interests of the three countries but also conducive to regional and global peace, security, stability and prosperity," he said.

Rajnath Singh reviews HAL projects; Tejas delivery delay under scrutiny

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday reviewed the progress of major ongoing projects of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) at a high-level meeting held at Kartavya Bhavan, with delays in the delivery of Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas Mk1A featuring prominently in the discussions.

During the meeting, Mr. Singh directed the Chairman and Managing Director of HAL, K. Ravi, to strictly adhere to delivery schedules for all defence projects and execute programmes critical to the armed forces' modernisation plans on time.

According to senior officials, the Defence Ministry is also examining the possibility of imposing penalties on HAL for delays in the delivery of Tejas Mk1A fighter aircraft to the Indian Air Force. Officials said six GE F404 engines required for the programme had already arrived in India, while nearly 18 Tejas Mk1A airframes were ready. With engine supplies beginning to stabilise, authorities are hopeful that HAL will be able to deliver the aircraft by the end of the year.

The Tejas Mk1A deliveries have faced repeated delays due to supply chain disruptions and delays in engine deliveries from the U.S. To accelerate production and meet future requirements, HAL has set up established three dedicated production lines – two in Bengaluru and one in Nashik.

The Tejas Mk1A programme remains a key pillar of the IAF's fighter fleet modernisation effort. The Air Force has contracted 83 aircraft under a deal worth over ₹48,000 crore. The government has also cleared the procurement of an additional 97 aircraft, significantly expanding the programme's scale.

'Nicobar project will enhance maritime security'

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Under the Great Nicobar Island Development Project, India plans to invest around ₹13,000 crore to build a dual-use airport and runway for both civilian and Navy operations, said a senior official with the Ministry of Defence on Monday.

According to sources in the Ministry, the project, expected to be completed within five years, will be jointly funded by the Ministry along with the Ministry of Civil Aviation. The government views the initiative as a strategic investment aimed at strengthening maritime security, boosting regional connectivity and enhancing India's presence in the Indo-Pacific region.

Four components

Elaborating about the project, the official said the project comprises four major components – an International Container Transshipment Port (ICTP), a joint-user greenfield airport and Naval Air Station, a modern township, and a power plant. Together, these projects are expected to transform Great Nicobar into a key maritime and economic hub while enhancing India's defence capabilities in the strategically significant Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

Located just 40 km from the Six Degree Channel, one of the world's busiest sea trade routes connecting the Gulf of Aden and the Malacca Strait, Great Nicobar occupies a critical position along global shipping lanes. Government officials said the project would reduce India's dependence on foreign transshipment ports and strengthen its ability to monitor and secure vital Sea Lanes of Communication.

The project comprises a port, airport, and power plant. AFP

The proposed greenfield airport, approved by the Union Cabinet and to be operated by the Indian Navy, is expected to significantly improve maritime domain awareness, logistics support, and rapid deployment capabilities. The airport is also expected to promote tourism, officials said. It is understood that five sites, including INS Baaz at Campbell Bay, were assessed before Galathea Bay was selected for the airport. Technical constraints, limited expansion possibilities, and environmental concerns reportedly made the expansion of INS Baaz unviable.

Extensive studies

Addressing concerns over environmental impact and tribal rights, officials said the project has undergone extensive environmental assessments involving institutions such as the Zoological Survey of India, Wildlife Institute of India and the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History. Of the island's total area, only 166.1 square kilometres have been earmarked for development, while more than 81% will continue to remain under forests, biosphere reserves, national parks and tribal conservation zones.

Trinamool Cong. leader arrested near Nepal border

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

A special task force of the West Bengal Police on Monday arrested Trinamool Congress leader and former candidate for the Falta Assembly seat, Jahangir Khan.

Mr. Khan, wanted in several cases, was arrested from Panitanki Bazaar (near Nepal border) by the special task force in a joint raid with a Darjeeling Police team. He will be produced before the court on Tuesday. According to the police, he had been trying to flee the country.

After allegations of electoral malpractices against the leader during polling at Falta in the second phase on April 29 surfaced, the Election Commission cancelled the poll and ordered re-polling, which was held on May 21. The BJP won the Falta seat by a margin of over one lakh votes. Mr. Khan had withdrawn from the contest at the re-poll and had been on the run since. After the change of regime, several villagers raised allegations of land grab, extortion and electoral violence against the Trinamool leader.

Hundreds of Trinamool leaders, including former MLAs, have been arrested on charges of corruption, extortion and other crimes after the BJP came to power in West Bengal.

BJP flays INDIA bloc, says it lacks 'concrete agenda'

Its constituent parties are grappling with electoral losses and internal conflict while the BJP stays focused on welfare initiatives and measures to make India a developed country, says Sambit Patra

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Monday took a dig at the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance, claiming the coalition is in disarray as its constituent parties have been grappling with electoral losses and internal conflicts.

In contrast, the BJP remains focused on gaining public trust through welfare initiatives and measures to make India a developed country by 2047, it said.

At a press conference, BJP MP and spokesperson Sambit Patra referred to the INDIA bloc meeting to say, "Earlier, such meetings used to be held in stadiums. Now it takes place in a room at the Constitution Club."

Countering the charge of "vote theft" through the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, Mr. Patra said: "SIR happened in Tamil Nadu and Kerala as well. In Tamil Nadu, you [Congress] formed an alliance with another party to be part of the government. The DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] is saying that it was not votes, but the alliance itself, which was stolen there."

Political potshot: INDIA parties have no presence on the ground, says BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

The Congress-led alliance formed the government in Kerala too, he added.

'Hypocrisy'

"When you lose in West Bengal, you start crying about the SIR," said Mr. Patra, accusing the alliance of hypocrisy. "In the true sense, the existence of the INDIA alliance has been stolen. Today, none of these political parties has any real presence on the ground. Their integrity has been stolen, and the public has not voted for them because of that," the BJP leader said.

Mr. Patra said following a major electoral defeat, the Trinamool Congress was being torn apart by infighting. The Samajwadi Party's Akhilesh Yadav would be wondering if "he would meet the same fate as [Trinamool supremo] Mamata Banerjee", he said.

The BJP leader cited previous remarks of Opposition leaders, such as Ms. Banerjee, Aam Aadmi Party chief Arvind Kejriwal, the DMK's Udhayanidhi Stalin, the Communist Party of India (Marxist)'s Pinarayi Vijayan, and Nationalist Congress Party (SP) chief Sharad Pawar, either criticising the Congress or Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi.

"Their meeting will take place in one place, but after leaving the room they will enter a different electoral battlefield and criticise each other... the DMK has even written a letter saying that their seating arrangement [in the Lok Sabha] should be changed immediately. They cannot even sit alongside Congress members," Mr. Patra said. He also targeted the Left, stating that it now "remains only within the INDIA alliance".

'No need for meet'

Mr. Patra alleged that the INDIA bloc meeting did not have any concrete agenda, questioning its demand for an all-party meeting. "None of these political parties attended the meeting which was called the last time for women's empowerment and the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam [women's reservation Act]. They do not turn up in meetings called during parliamentary sessions," he said.

Seeking to draw a contrast, Mr. Patra said the BJP also organised a meeting on Monday and it was to discuss welfare work done by the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the past 12 years and initiatives to make India a developed country by 2047.

Trinamool rebellion revives govt. hopes on Delimitation Bill

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

The rebellion in the Trinamool Congress ranks, especially in its parliamentary party, has revived talk that the government is likely to bring the Delimitation Bill as early as the Monsoon Session, likely to start mid-July.

The Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty First Amendment) Bill, 2026, or the Delimitation Bill, which sought to redraw electoral boundaries based on the 2011 census, was defeated in Parliament in April as it fell short of the two-thirds majority required for its passage.

The Women's Reservation Amendment Bill had been bundled up with the Delimitation Bill and that too consequently bit the dust.

New norms take over

Much has changed since then in the political scene with the Trinamool Congress's defeat in the West Bengal Assembly election and the fast disintegration of its ranks.

Just like in the case of the Shiv Sena and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) splitting and their rebel groups joining the NDA ranks, and later the Rajya Sabha MPs from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) doing the same, government circles are sensing an opportunity in the split in the Trinamool.

The Delimitation Bill was defeated in April after it fell short of a two-thirds majority.

On Monday, Trinamool MP Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar claimed to have the support of 20 party MPs in the Lok Sabha, one more than required to split the party as per the anti-defection law.

Sources in the government have said that senior strategists of the ruling party are again in touch with various parties, including the DMK and the Samajwadi Party (SP), regarding a rethink on voting on the Bill.

Separate acts this time

Sources also said that the government will not be bundling up the Delimitation Bill and the amendments to the Women's Reservation Act this time, and may even make some revisions to the provisions of the Bills if enough parties say they are on board.

Trinamool MP quits party, resigns from Rajya Sabha

Shiv Sahay Singh
Senjuti Sengupta
KOLKATA

Senior Trinamool Congress MP Sukhendu Sekhar Roy on Monday said he has resigned from the Rajya Sabha and from the party.

Mr. Roy has been one of the dissenting voices in the Trinamool and had distanced himself from the party after its debacle in the recently concluded Assembly election in the State. The 77-year-old Trinamool leader raised several issues, including corruption in the party, and said there had been no introspection in the party after the loss.

On Monday, he became the first MP of the Trinamool to resign after the setback the party suffered in the Assembly polls. Mr. Roy's resignation brings to the fore differences amongst the Trinamool MPs. Speculation is rife that more MPs may quit.

The party is also facing a rebellion in its legislature party, with about 60 MLAs electing a new Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly.

"The legislators also probably did not have the confidence that the party was running in the right direction. There was no forum within the party to discuss the political issues and other social issues," Mr. Roy told media.

Modi to complete 4,399 days as PM, set new record

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

As numbers go, 4,399 will not appear significant in itself except to mathematicians who may find value in the odds and evens around it, but for political observers, it marks a watershed moment in the history of post-Independence India, when Narendra Modi becomes the longest continuously serving elected Prime Minister of the country.

On June 10, Mr. Modi will be crossing the record set by India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, who was elected to the post in 1952 (Nehru's previous stint, from 1947-52, was as head of an interim government since elections were yet to be institutionalised and held at the time). Later, Indira Gandhi had a fractured tenure totalling 14 years. Mr. Modi's tenure as PM for 12 years, or 4,399 days, therefore calls for closer examination.

"Milestones do not define an epoch of transformation," Ajay Singh, former press secretary to Presidents Ram Nath Kovind and Droupadi Murmu said. "The milestone of surpassing the record of former Prime Minister Nehru is remarkable yet Prime Minister Modi will be remembered less for statistics and more for reimagining India's politics in the most profound way," Mr. Singh said.

Mr. Singh argues that while comparisons between Prime Ministers are redundant since they are products of a specific historical context, Mr. Modi's years at the helm of affairs have to be acknowledged as a period during which many of the givens of Indian politics were shattered.

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government led by Mr. Modi is marking 12 years in power this week.

The milestone of 4,399 days as Prime Minister is somehow subsumed within that, and history will likely have a better view on what his tenure has meant.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA - DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, KHAIRIBHANDAN & DEO IRRIGATION PROJECT, KARANJIA, AT/PO : KARANJIA, DIST:- MAYURBHANJ-757037
Tel : 06796-296144, e-mail - cce.dip.dowr@gmail.com
"e" Procurement Notice No.08/ CCEKDIP of 2026-27 - Bid Identification No. 08/ CCEKDIP of 2026-27

1.	Nature of the Work	: Civil Work
2.	Number of Works	: 03 (Three) Nos of Individual Work
3.	Approximate amount put to tender	: Rs.576.86 Lakh to Rs.584.17 Lakh
4.	Period of Completion	: 9 (Nine) Calendar Months including rainy season
5.	Class of Contractor	: 'A' Class Contractor
6.	Date & time of Availability of Bid document in the portal	: Dt.11.06.2026 at 10 AM to 25.06.2026 up to 5.30 PM
7.	Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	: Dt.23.06.2026 up to 1.00 PM
8.	Last date & time of receipt of Bids in the Portal	: Dt.25.06.2026 up to 5.30 PM
9.	Date, time & place of opening of Technical Bid/s (Cover-I)	: Dt.29.06.2026 at 11.00 AM in O/o the Chief Construction Engineer, Khairibhandan & Deo Irrigation Project, Karanjia
10.	Date, time & place of opening of Financial Bid/s (Cover-II)	: To be intimated after evaluation of Technical BID
11.	Name & address of the officer inviting Bid	: Chief Construction Engineer, Khairibhandan & Deo Irrigation Project, Karanjia, AT/PO-Karanjia, PS-Karanjia, Dist-Mayurbhanj, PIN-757037

*Further details can be seen from the Govt. web site : www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said Website
Chief Construction Engineer, Khairibhandan & Deo Irrigation Project, Karanjia
32001/355/2627 OIPR-32001/32337/1/26-27/0007

INDIA bloc parties close ranks around Congress, but not without caveats

NEWS ANALYSIS

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Amid a chorus from the Samajwadi Party, the Rashtriya Janata Dal and the Left parties criticising the Congress and urging it to be more accommodating of its partners, Monday's INDIA bloc meeting marked a moment of grudging acceptance of the Congress as the central force unifying the alliance against the BJP.

Following its defeat in the West Bengal Assembly election, the Trinamool Congress, which has often challenged the Congress's leadership within the Opposition coalition, for the first time spoke of a possible alliance between the two parties for the 2029 Lok Sabha election.

In the last Lok Sabha election, despite multiple attempts by the Congress, the two parties failed to strike an alliance, with the Trinamool unwilling to concede over two seats.

At Monday's meeting, former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee warmly embraced Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi.

Show of unity: INDIA party leaders address a press meet after their meeting in New Delhi on Monday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

The two were seen speaking at length before the meeting began. During her intervention, Ms. Banerjee spoke of allowing the Congress to "lead" as it is the only party with a national presence.

'No touch of arrogance'

The meeting itself had been convened at Ms. Banerjee's insistence, as she appeared to seek support in the wake of her party's recent setbacks. Senior Trinamool leaders said that in the course of coordinating the meeting, the Congress did not display a "touch of arrogance", a position markedly different from the Trinamool's earlier criticism.

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah described the Congress as the 'glue' that holds the INDIA bloc together. Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, while emphasising that dominant regional players should have the first claim on seats in their respective States, also acknowledged the Congress's national reach.

Barring a brief exchange between Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, and CPI(M) leader John Brittas, the meeting was largely free of tense moments. Mr. Gandhi, for his part, struck a conciliatory note, welcoming the criticism.

Assuming a more defined leadership role, he underlined that as the largest party in the bloc, the Congress would work to unite all Opposition parties with "love and affection".

Akhilesh spreading 'fabricated lies' about Ram Temple: BJP

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

A day after Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav alleged that crores of rupees were missing from donations made to the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust general secretary Champat Rai on Monday dismissed the claims saying an internal audit was on.

The BJP hit back, accusing Mr. Yadav of spreading "fabricated lies" that will have "consequences" in the 2027 State election. "The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra undergoes internal audits from time to time. Representatives of the trust and the State Bank of India are involved in this exercise. The audit process lasts for several days. The same work is being carried out these days. Nothing noteworthy has come to light yet," Mr. Rai said in a statement.

Mr. Yadav termed the clarification "suspicious", and said that funds going missing were a "normal thing" for the trust that they "don't even consider it 'remarkable' anymore". In a long post on X, he demanded that all trust members "be brought together to provide explanations,

Devotees throng the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, U.P.

and CCTV evidence should be used to verify the data".

"Once all trustees are together, the truth will immediately emerge... It must also be clarified why it took so many hours to come up with a 40-second explanation, and why even speaking for one minute in the name of clarification is proving costly," he said.

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak accused Mr. Yadav of making a "failed attempt" to fabricate lies by spreading rumours, and said the SP leader's thinking was "Babar-centric". He added that the SP will "suffer the consequences" and lose the 2027 polls.

On Sunday, Mr. Yadav had posted about a "very sensitive news for the devotees of Lord Ram", alleging "crores of rupees of offerings for 'Ram Temple' have been found missing."

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The 2026 FIFA World Cup signals a changing of the guard, as football's next generation takes centre stage in a tournament shaped by politics, commerce and ambition.

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INBRIEF

541 Sikh pilgrims receive visas to visit shrines in Pakistan

The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) has received visas for 541 Sikh pilgrims who will travel to Pakistan to pay obeisance at historic Sikh shrines on the occasion of the martyrdom anniversary of the fifth Sikh Guru, Arjan Dev. In total, the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi has issued 737 visas to the Indian pilgrims to participate in an annual festival to be held in Pakistan from June 10-19, according to an official statement. The issuance of visas is in line with the Government of Pakistan's commitment to fully implement the Bilateral Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines of 1974, the statement said. PTI

President Murmu to confer Padma awards on June 23

President Droupadi Murmu will present the coveted Padma awards to noted personalities, including actors Mammootty and R. Madhavan, as well as Satish Shah, whose kin will receive it posthumously, during the second round of the civil investiture ceremony on June 23, officials said on Monday. The president has approved the conferment of 131 Padma awards this year - five Padma Vibhushans, 13 Padma Bhushans and 113 Padma Shri. At the ceremony on May 25, she had conferred two Padma Vibhushans, six Padma Bhushans and 58 Padma Shris. The remaining awards will be conferred during the second round of the ceremony in Rashtrapati Bhavan on June 23. PTI

Govt. cuts subsidised LPG cylinders under Ujjwala to 4 from 9

PMUY beneficiaries use about 'four or five cylinders a year', Petroleum Ministry says; around 10.55 crore LPG connections given under scheme

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

Amid prevailing pressure on supplies of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) globally against the backdrop of the West Asia conflict, the Centre has reduced the number of subsidised refills available under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) from nine to four cylinders a year.

Officials in the Petroleum Ministry, however, did not inform when the direction was formally instituted.

Under the scheme, the government provides a targeted subsidy of ₹300 a cylinder for up to nine refills in a year.

In the second increase since the onset of the conflict in West Asia, prices of domestic LPG cylinders were raised by ₹29 on Sunday, taking the cumulative increase to ₹89 across the two revisions.

At present, a 14.2-kg domestic cylinder costs ₹942 in Delhi. With the additional ₹300 subsidy under the Central scheme, beneficiaries pay ₹642 per cylinder.

Steep hike: Prices of domestic LPG cylinders were raised by ₹29 on Sunday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

'Indirect subsidy'

Responding to concerns over the reduction in subsidised refills, Additional Secretary in the Union Petroleum Ministry Praveen Khanooja stated, "Whether I am PMUY or a non-PMUY consumer, I am getting a cylinder, which should have cost ₹1,600 [adhering to international pricing dynamics], at ₹942 - which is also an indirect subsidy," adding, "Over and above that, PMUY consumers get ₹300 more, therefore, they are getting ₹1,000 [subsidy on every cylinder]." He further said the average consumption among PMUY beneficiaries is "about four to five cylinders in a year".

The government said the effective price of a PMUY cylinder at ₹642 is being offered at a discount of 60% to the current international LPG prices, while a non-PMUY cylinder priced at ₹942 is available at a discount of 45%.

The PMUY scheme has provided around 10.55 crore LPG connections as of May 26 this year.

SC says pre-marital relationship is not a blot on character

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

The ruling concerned a police constable aspirant barred over a case linked to a failed relationship

The Supreme Court has held that a consensual pre-marital relationship cannot, by itself, be viewed as a blemish on a person's character, observing that authorities must be "sensitive" to changing social norms.

A Bench of Justices Manoj Misra and Manmohan observed that while character verification remains an integral aspect of recruitment to disciplined forces, pre-marital relationships are common in contemporary society and cannot be used as a pretext to cast aspersions on a person's character.

"...authorities would have to be sensitive to the changing times in the context of premarital relationships. Such pre-marital relationships are common today. Moreover, physical relationship between two consenting unmarried adults cannot and should not by itself be a ground to draw an adverse impression about the character of the persons in that relationship. There is no law which prohibits two consenting unmarried adults from having a relationship of their choice," the Bench said.

The ruling came in a case concerning a police constable candidate whose selection was cancelled by the Telangana State Level Police Recruitment Board on account of his involvement in a criminal case arising from a failed romantic relationship. Allowing his appeal, the top court restored an earlier order of a single judge of the Telangana High Court directing his appointment and set aside a contrary judgment of a Division Bench.

The judgment further underlined that it is a well-settled principle of criminal jurisprudence that unless a charge is proved in a court of law, there is a presumption of innocence.

While recognising that employers are entitled to scrutinise the criminal antecedents of a candidate even after an acquittal, the court held that any adverse decision must rest on objective material indicating both the commission of an offence and the candidate's involvement in it.

SC seeks reply from CBSE on Saudi Arabia student's plea

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday sought a response from the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on a plea filed by a Class 12 student from Saudi Arabia seeking directions to the Board to declare the results of his improvement examination.

A Bench of Justices Manmohan and Vijay Bishnoi was hearing a petition filed by Class 12 student Pransu Jigarkumar Patel, who had appeared as a private candidate in Saudi Arabia for the 2026 Class 12 improvement examinations in physics, chemistry, mathematics, English, and computer science.

However, after the CBSE cancelled certain Class 12 examinations in several West Asian countries on March 15 amid the U.S.-Israel-Iran conflict, he was able to appear only for the physics and chemistry papers.

The CBSE subsequently issued a notification to facilitate the declaration of results for students affected by the cancellations.

The Board declared the results on May 13. However, Mr. Patel claims that his results were withheld and that his status was reflected as "RL (Result Later)".

Seven Indians killed, nine hurt in Dubai road accident

Press Trust of India
DUBAI

At least seven Indian workers were killed on Monday when a minibus collided with a truck that had stopped in the middle of a road in Dubai, officials said.

"The accident resulted in seven fatalities and nine injuries, including five serious and four moderate injuries. All injured were transported to the hospital for treatment," a senior Dubai Police official stated.

"Deeply saddened by the tragic road accident in Dubai that claimed the lives of several Indian workers," the Indian Consulate in Dubai said in a post on X. The mission said that it is working closely with local authorities to provide all possible assistance and support.

HC upholds POCSO conviction based on victim's testimony

Rizmi Lia M.
CHENNAI

The Allahabad High Court on Wednesday upheld the life imprisonment of an accused convicted under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, reaffirming that the sole testimony of a child victim is sufficient to sustain a conviction if it inspires confidence.

The court dismissed an appeal and affirmed the sentence of rigorous life imprisonment imposed on the accused for abducting and raping a seven-year-old child.

Noting that the victim's statements remained completely unwavering and were fully corroborated by medical and forensic evidence, the court held that she qualified as a "sterling witness", making her solitary testimony sufficient to sustain the conviction.

A Division Bench of Justice Jai Krishna Upadhyay and Justice Siddhartha Varma observed, "Thus, the law that emerges on the issue is that the statement of the prosecutrix, if found to be worthy of credence and reliable, requires no corroboration. The court can record conviction of the accused on the sole testimony of the prosecutrix."

The Bench relied on several Supreme Court precedents, including *Ganesan v. State represented by its Inspector of Police* (2020), in which the top court held that the solitary testimony of a prosecutrix is sufficient to convict an accused of rape, provided it inspires confidence, is absolutely trustworthy, unblemished, and of sterling quality.

Zojila Tunnel between Kashmir and Kargil to see final breakthrough

Peerzada Ashiq
SONAMARG (GANDERBAL)

India's ambitious, strategic, all-weather Zojila Tunnel in volatile seismic zone IV will witness the final breakthrough on June 9 as Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari will oversee the final blasting from the Kargil side. The 13.14-km-long tunnel cuts through the mighty Himalayas at an altitude of 11,578 feet and connects the Kashmir valley with Ladakh's Kargil.

Mr. Gadkari will preside over the process of final blasting of the last block, which will see the tunnel through. The tunnel is likely to allow security officials to ferry goods, machines and stocks to the high-altitude bases of Ladakh during peak winter for the first time ever in coming winters, officials said. Earlier, stocks would be maintained during early autumn months to feed soldiers on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in winters.

The Zojila Tunnel is likely to allow security officials to ferry goods to the high-altitude bases of Ladakh during peak winter. ANI

The Zojila Tunnel bypasses the weather-dependent Zojila Pass, which is prone to landslides and shooting stones and remains closed due to snow accumulation in winters.

A spokesman of Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Ltd. (MEIL), which started work on the tunnel in 2020, termed the final breakthrough "a defining moment". "It demonstrates the successful execution of one of India's most complex transport infrastructure works in a hostile Himalayan environment," said senior MEIL officials.

The excavation work has been completed on the world's longest single-tube bi-directional road tunnel at an altitude of over 11,500 feet. "The project will deliver the long-envisioned objective of seamless, all-weather connectivity between Kashmir and Ladakh, bringing long-term benefits in mobility, economic integration, and strategic resilience," said MEIL officials.

Reduced travel time

The tunnel cost more than ₹6,800 crore. A 7.57-metre-high horseshoe-shaped single-tube two-lane tunnel will pass under the arduous Zojila Pass between Ganderbal district in Kashmir and Drass district of Ladakh. Officials say the travel time will come down from three hours to 20 minutes between Ganderbal and Kargil.

BGB team arrives in India for talks with the BSF

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Director-General of the Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) arrived in Delhi on Monday to participate in the first round of the bi-annual D-G level talks with the Border Security Force (BSF).

The talks, scheduled to continue till June 11, are taking place against the backdrop of tensions between the two border guarding forces over the BSF sending undocumented Bangladeshis across the border at multiple land entry points. The practice, termed "push-in" by the neighbouring country, bypassing formal deportation procedure, is one of the key agendas of the BGB.

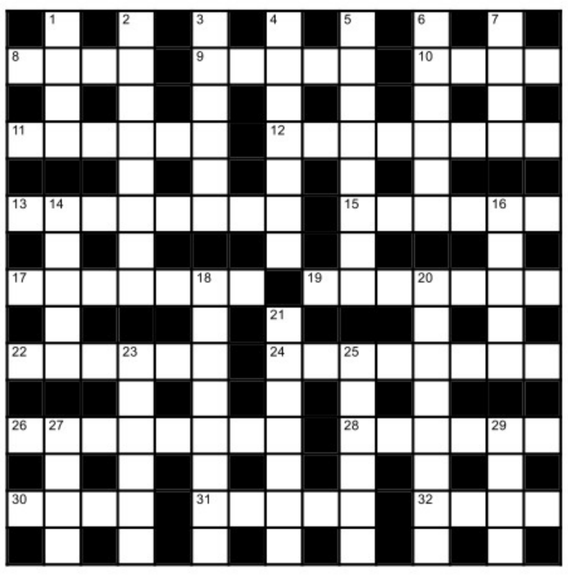
The BSF delegation is led by Praveen Kumar, D-G,BSF.

TH CROSSWORD + 14815

(set by Incognito)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Music composer from Korba, Chhattisgarh (4)
9 Spanish mission that serves as a reminder of Texas Revolution in Mambalam office (5)
10 Egyptian goddess is going around South Island (4)
11 Shoot covers new season (6)
12 Getting tailless dog in south eastern corral (8)
13 Hit wound violently in suspense story (8)
15 Get dressed, perhaps, and be Nero, fiddling... (6)
17 Most crazy to get a Chinese body part (7)
19 What a groom might get for painting once again? (3,4)
22 Marshal Omar carries word of peace (6)
24 So diesel may be converted into sources of cooking fat (8)
26 Person carrying one's moniker, but may be unrelated (8)
28 Once saucy ace (6)
30 Neurologist possesses some continental currency (4)
31 Street commonly mentioned by Perry Mason in model law (5)
32 Place to buy half-shorts with Papa (4)

Down

1 Moist place to store water on top of pitcher (4)
2 OK, dimes are scattered around hotel in Arab chief's territory (8)
3 Gross profit from liquor after March, in short (6)
4 King leaves baskets for son's dogs (7)
5 Criminal on island produces building material (8)
6 One may reflect... MOM or MUM looks the same in this (6)
7 Logo in the heart of designer (4)
14 Jerk's tenure in America (5)
16 Snake on road panel (5)
18 Orders, with new note on first of September (8)
20 Least expensive animal in box (8)
21 Announcement made by tennis referee at beginning of match between belligerent players (4,3)
23 Tell untruth before owl flies and go underground, perhaps (3,3)
25 General method to get elbow room (6)
27 Be next to rejected musical instrument (4)
29 Moor is back in space (4)

SUDOKU

4				1	8			
5		8		9				2
9			5				1	
	5	6		4				3
		4				9		
7				8		2	4	
	9				5			8
8				2		4		1
			8	3				7

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

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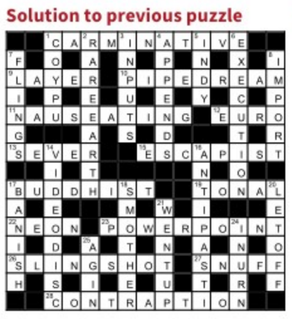
Solution to previous puzzle



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	2	4	9	1	6	8	3	5
8	5	9	4	3	2	7	1	6
1	3	6	7	5	8	2	9	4
3	9	8	5	7	4	1	6	2
6	1	5	3	2	9	4	7	8
2	4	7	6	8	1	3	5	9
5	8	2	1	6	3	9	4	7
9	6	1	2	4	7	5	8	3
4	7	3	8	9	5	6	2	1

FAITH

Rama, Krishna connection

Sita-Raman is a common term, but Gita-Raman is a unique term that explains that the connection between Lord Rama and Lord Krishna is the same divine entity in different incarnations, said Akkarakkani Srinidhi in a discourse. Gita means which is sung by Lord Krishna himself. That is why it is called the Bhagavad Gita. The principles Rama lived by are the same ones Krishna preached in the Gita. The selfless love of the people of Ayodhya is highlighted through the supreme beings they loved. The citizens visited various temples for the well-being of their beloved Rama. The epics describe how Rama ruled Ayodhya, with people living in peace and without suffering, and with justice. That is why his rule came to be praised as "*Ramrajya*". Since he did not compromise on dharma anywhere, he is called Uttama Rama. People call Rama "*Mariyada Purushottam*" since he adhered to dharma and sastra. Krishna is "*Leela Purushottam*" because of his playful way of imparting dharma.

Both the Ramayana and the Mahabharata explain what is permanent and impermanent. Rama demonstrated how one should live in one's life, while the Bhagavad Gita explains and enlightens these principles. In life, we face many challenges every day, and solutions can be found through Rama's way of living and through the Gita. The Gita teaches us to remain strong and composed like Rama during hardships. Lord Krishna summarises the teaching of the Bhagavad Gita in the last *adhyaya* (chapter) through the verse "*Sarva-dharman parityajya:*", whoever approaches Him with complete surrender wholeheartedly will always be protected by Him in every situation.

INBRIEF

Nifty declines 1.04% amid escalating tension in W. Asia

Benchmark Nifty declined 1.04% to 23,123 points, a day after Israel claimed that missiles were fired from Iran, escalating concerns over fresh tensions in West Asia. The index opened at 23,080 points and rose to the day's high of 23,267.30 points before declining to 23,070 points to hit the day's close. Brent Oil Futures, one of the major indicators of global oil prices, too, increased 1.4% to $94.38 a barrel from about $93 a barrel on Friday. Most of the 3,400 Nifty stocks declined on Monday. Except Nifty Healthcare index, the other 20 sectoral indices declined, making the overall decline in the index broad-based. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) have so far sold a significant ₹51,000 crore in just the first week of June. This led to a depreciation in the rupee, which closed at 95.61 against the U.S. dollar on Monday.

TCS wins 'multimillion euro' deal from Canada Life

Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. (TCS) said it has signed a multi-year transformation and managed services agreement with Canada Life, a global life and pensions insurer for unspecified multimillion euros. As per the deal, TCS will support the modernisation of Canada Life's IT infrastructure services across its European businesses. TCS will leverage its AI and digital capabilities to modernise and manage Canada Life's data centres, core infrastructure, end-user computing, and software lifecycle management. The programme aims to deliver high-quality, cost-effective, performance driven IT services while helping Canada Life accelerate its technology strategy and achieve stronger business outcomes, TCS said. The deal will also help Canada Life scale its technology services more effectively and be nimble to changing business needs, it added.

Solar firms move High Court over 'unreasonable' mandate

Industry associations from Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu are up in arms against a Central rule that requires most new solar projects to be built only with domestically made cells

Jacob P. Koshy
NEW DELHI

A group of solar manufacturers and developers has approached the Karnataka High Court to defer a rule that, from June 1, requires most new solar projects to use only domestically made cells. They cite the gap between what Indian solar-cell makers charge and international prices.

Cells listed under the government's mandatory 'ALMM List-II' sell at around ₹13 a watt, against an imported price of about ₹5 a watt, the petitioners said. "₹5 and ₹13 is unreasonable. That is what we are asking [the court to address]," Ramesh Shivanna of the Karnataka Renewable Energy Systems Manufacturers Association (KRESMA), which led the petition, told *The Hindu*.

ALMM is the government ratified Approved List of Models and Manufacturers and a list of domestic producer companies whose solar panels and constituent cells are mandatory for electricity distribution in India.

ALMM-1 is a list of about 130 module manufacturers. ALMM-2 is a smaller group of about 17 companies that makes the solar cells for these modules.

The writ petition, filed on June 6 by solar industry associations from Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, challenges Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) orders that enforce ALMM List-II – the approved list of domestic solar-cell manufacturers – for projects commissioned on or after June 1, 2026. Reportedly other state associations too have filed similar petitions in other courts.

Price imparity: Cells listed under the 'ALMM List-II' sell at about ₹13 a watt, against an imported price of about ₹5 a watt. FILE PHOTO

'Defer enforcement'

The petitioners said they do not oppose the list, but want its enforcement deferred, at least a year, until domestic cells are available in adequate quantity and quality, and at a competitive price. The petitioners also pointed to the Finance Ministry's classification of the West Asia conflict as a force majeure event, under which the MNRE allowed extensions of contractual deadlines to solar-cell makers; the same consideration, they said, should apply to developers.

Mr. Shivanna said the government must step in on price until domestic supply matures. "The government should regulate the price," he said.

"When something is available so cheap in the global market and here you are being made to pay [much more], it is the government's responsibility to study what is happening globally and in India."

A handful of cell makers, he argued, were capturing the gain: by his estimate, at a 30 GW annual build and a roughly ₹8-a-watt premium, about ₹24,000 crore a year would flow to "four-five manufacturers," several of whom had also received production-linked incentives. According to MNRE database, only six of the seventeen ALMM-2 companies carry "high-efficiency" solar cells cells – Emmvee, Premier Energies Photovoltaic, Mundra Solar PV, Tata Power Renewable Energy (a small 247 MW line), Waaree and Renewsys, Reliance and Jupiter Solartech.

The dispute exposes a structural gap at the heart of India's solar expansion. Installed solar capacity has crossed 144 GW and is growing about 40% a year, and module-assembly capacity has reached roughly 210 GW. But upstream cell manufacturing – the step the new rule targets – stood at only about 27 GW at the end of 2025, according to Mercom India, a clean-energy research group. Ratings agency CareEdge estimates domestic cells meet just 25-30% of demand, leaving India reliant on imports, mainly from China. "Right now the whole capacity (of high efficiency cells) manufactured in India is not enough for our requirement," Mr. Shivanna said.

"When we ask for cell supply, [many] don't have stock." All companies that make cells make modules but many modules makers don't make cells whereby about 14 companies make up 98% of India's solar capacity addition.

MNRE has refused a blanket extension, saying in a May 25 order that industry consensus favoured "policy stability" to protect investor confidence in domestic manufacturing, and offering instead case-by-case relief for projects that are substantially built. On Monday, the ministry constituted a four-member expert committee to vet applications for time extension.

May auto retail sales rise 9.5% year on year

Lalatendu Mishra
NEW DELHI

PV retail sales were at a record 4,02,591 units last month.

Despite an above-normal heatwave, fuel-price pressure and the evolving West Asia situation, the Indian auto retail sales has held its growth trajectory, with May 2026 registering the best ever May across three-wheelers (3Ws), passenger vehicles (PVs), tractors and overall registrations.

According to data released by the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) on Monday, the Indian auto industry retailed 25,31,067 units during the month, a 9.55% year on year (YoY) rise.

While passenger vehicles (PVs) grew 23.25%, the tractor segment was up 11.17%, followed by two-wheelers (2Ws) at 7.54%, commercial vehicles (CVs) at 5.29% and three-wheelers (3Ws) at 3.56%.

The wheeled construction equipment segment saw a YoY decline of 17.51% on a high base.

However, there was a sequential decline of 6.75% month on month (MoM).

"This softness reflects the customary post-April seasonal moderation and a delayed south-west monsoon, keeping May largely a pre-sowing month across much of rain-fed Bharat. That growth held through this confluence of pressures underlines the resilience of the underlying demand," FADA president C.S. Vigneshwar said in a statement.

Two-wheeler retail stood at 18,44,947 units in May 2026, up 7.54% YoY, with urban markets growing 11.75% and rural markets 4.74%.

'Under-recovery ₹30/litre on diesel, ₹6/litre on petrol'

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

State-owned oil-marketing companies are incurring under-recoveries of ₹30 on every litre of diesel sold and ₹6 per litre on petrol, Praveen Khanooja, Additional Secretary at the Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) told reporters at the bi-weekly inter-ministerial briefing on the situation in West Asia on Monday.

"Even now, when you buy diesel at ₹95.2 [per litre] in Delhi, [the] balance ₹30 is borne by the oil-marketing companies and for petrol it is about ₹6 per litre," the Additional Secretary stated.

'Pushed away' from Tamil Nadu, Mazagon Dock eyes investment in A.P.

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL), India's premier shipbuilding company, is looking to invest in Andhra Pradesh after having waited for Tamil Nadu to respond to its proposal to build a greenfield mega ship-building cluster in Thoothukudi.

The MDL had signed a deal with the Tamil Nadu government in September 2025. It had publicly committed an investment of ₹15,000-18,000 crore for the project, after its board had approved the commitment during MDL's Q2 FY26 earnings call in November 2025. The plan was approved for forming a 1,050-acre greenfield shipyard intended to be developed over a period of 10-12 years, aimed at targeting very large crude carriers (VLCCs) up to 3,00,000 DWT.

But now, after the Tamil Nadu government has brought a foreign company onboard for the strategically important cluster project, allegedly without following the due process, MDL is seeking other options. The Tamil Nadu government's move has raised questions on why Indian companies were not given an opportunity for competitive bidding for a strategic project that will see huge monetary subsidisation by the Centre and the State to the tune of thousands of crores. It comes at a time when indigenisation is being given a push under the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047.

Failing in its bid to secure this project, MDL now wants to invest over ₹29,000 crore for a mega shipbuilding cluster in Andhra Pradesh. It has expressed interest in becoming the anchor investor there. A team from MDL is soon expected to conduct a feasibility study for developing a planned shipbuilding capacity of 1.2 million tonnes at the cluster.

Dead end: In 2025, MDL signed an MoU with 'Guidance Tamil Nadu' for a greenfield shipyard on India's eastern coast. PRASHANT NAKWE

Lack of transparency

The development has raised questions about the shunting out of Indian shipyards by the Tamil Nadu government, on whether the State government inverted the prescribed procedure, subverted the competitive bidding process, and failed to maintain transparency about one of India's most ambitious cluster anchor shipyard projects.

Thoothukudi (Tuticorin) in Tamil Nadu has been identified by the Government of India as one of the premier locations for a greenfield mega-cluster, due to its natural advantages like extensive coastal land, natural cyclone shielding, low atmospheric salinity, proximity to international shipping lanes, and an existing deep-water port. These clusters are intended to target approximately 1.2 million Gross Tonnage per annum capacity.

As per the Union Government's Shipbuilding Development Scheme Guidelines, notified by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) on December 26, 2025, a sequential process has been laid down for the development of greenfield shipbuilding clusters.

But access to the detailed timeline of the project raises questions on whether this sequence was subverted.

On September 19, 2025, Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with 'Guidance Tamil Nadu' for a greenfield shipyard on India's eastern coast. Both MDL and Cochin Shipyard signed MoUs with Tamil Nadu for greenfield shipyards at Thoothukudi, with a combined stated investment of ₹30,000 crore, during the Government of India's 'Samudra se Samriddhi' event in Bhavnagar.

In November last year, MDL, during its Q2 FY26 earnings call, referred to a planned Thoothukudi greenfield shipyard with a total investment of ₹15,000-18,000 crore. Since then, it waited for a response from the Tamil Nadu government and an Expression of Interest (EoI) process from the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV).

Instead, a month later, a foreign company announced the signing of an 'Exclusive Business Cooperation Agreement' with the Government of Tamil Nadu for a new shipyard at Thoothukudi, during the TN Rising Investment Conclave in Madurai, in the presence of then CM M.K. Stalin. HD Hyundai described it as a plan for a 'second Ulsan' with an investment reported at approximately $2-4 billion. This happened on December 7, 2025.

But the Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS) Guidelines were formally notified by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways only on December 26, a whopping 19 days after the HD Hyundai exclusive agreement was signed. Not just that, even the SPV was formed after over a month of the agreement. In January this year, NSHIP TN (National Shipbuilding & Heavy Industries Park, Tamil Nadu) SPV was formally incorporated as a 50:50 Joint Venture between VOCPA and SIPCOT.

HD Hyundai was allegedly exclusively selected as the Anchor Shipyard before the rules governing the selection process existed, and before the institution (the SPV) required to conduct the selection was formally incorporated. Despite repeated attempts, the Tamil Nadu Government did not respond to a detailed list of questions.

TNPL TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
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NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
262713 001535	Steaming (Non-Coking) Coal in Bulk (Imported) with 5000 GAR of South African Origin	22.06.2026
262713 001544	Procurement of Wet End Liquid OBA	18.06.2026
262713 001545	Procurement of Surface Liquid OBA	23.06.2026

Corrigendum if any will be issued in NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions are available in tender document at our websites : **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

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A.P. TOWNSHIP & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
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E-Procurement Notice

Notice Inviting Tender No. 02/DCTO/APTIDCO/ANL-CC/VSP/2026-27, Dt.02-06-2026 of DCTO, APTIDCO, Visakhapatnam Circle.

No. of Works	01
Bid Document Downloading Start Date	04.06.2026@ 11:00 Hrs
Bid Document Downloading Close Date	18.06.2026 @ 14:00 Hrs
Last Date and Time for Receipt of Bids	18.06.2026 @15:00 Hrs
Technical Bid Opening Date	18.06.2026 @ 17:00 Hrs
Financial Bid Opening Date	20.06.2026 @ 11:00 Hrs

Name & Address of the Concerned Officer: O/o DEPUTY CHIEF TECHNICAL OFFICER, APTIDCO, VISAKHAPATNAM CIRCLE, 3rd FLOOR, VMRDA, SIRIPURAM, VISAKHAPATNAM-530 003.

The details can be seen in website **http://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in.** Thereof Contact No: **+91 9676476111, +919959378999**.

Sd/- 08-06-2026, Chief Technical Officer,
DIPR No: 5145PP/CL, Dt:08.06.2026 APTIDCO, Amaravati

AJMER VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
Regd. off. Vidyut Bhawan, Panchsheel Nagar, Makarwali Road, Ajmer-305004
O/o M&P CIRCLE, OPP. 220 KV GSS NAKA MADAR, AJMER-305007, Phone : 0145-2670593,
Email ID : semnpajm25@yahoo.com, Website –http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/avvnl

No. :- AVVNL/SE(M&P)/EA&P/F/D - 1085 Dated :- 05/06/2026

Tender Notice TN-M&P-43

Bids are invited from eligible bidders for the work of "Ajmer Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd. ["AVVNL"/ "Ajmer Discom"] has invited bids from competent Agency for work of Testing of Metering Equipment's i.e. HTTVMs / ABT meters/ CTs, PTs/CVTs and CT-PT sets for the consumers having voltage levels of 11/33/132KV at consumer site in Ajmer Discom". under TN-M&P-43. All the details regarding tenders are available at our website **http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/avvnl and https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.** In future corrigendum/ extension of date etc. if any shall be published only at **http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/avvnl and https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.**

NIB Code : AVV2627A0023
UBN Code : AVV2627SLOB00038
Raj.Samwad/C/26/4366 Superintending Engineer (M & P)

RAJASTHAN UNIVERSITY OF VETERINARY AND ANIMAL SCIENCES, BIKANER

No. :- RAJUVAS/PGS/Pre-PG/2025-26/1809 Date :- 03/06/2026

PRE-PG Test 2025-26 for Admissions to M.V.Sc. and Ph.D. Degree Programmes

Online applications are invited for admissions to M.V.Sc. and Ph.D. degree Programmes in various subjects of Veterinary and Animal Science streams in constituents' collages of RAJUVAS, Bikaner and RUVAS, Jobner (Jaipur) for the Academic Session 2025-26. Candidates will be selected on the basis of Merit of Pre-PG Test 2025-26 conducted by RAJUVAS, Bikaner on 12 July, 2026. Information booklet and filling of online application form will be available on university website **www.rajuvas.ac.in** from 8 June, 2026. An amount of Rs. 3000/- is payable towards application fee through NET banking/Debit card using online gateway mode available only on university website. The last date for filling of Online Application forms is 30 June, 2026. For further query, if any, please contact Office of Dean PGS, RAJUVAS, Bikaner.

Raj.Samwad/C/26/4378 DEAN, PGS

भीम BHIM
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

Department of Tourism
Government of Rajasthan
'Paryatan Bhawan',Opp. Vidhayakpuri Police Station,Sanjay Marg,M.I. Road,Jaipur
www.tourism.rajasthan.gov.in,
email- mktg-dot@rajasthan.gov.in
0141-2822807/838

No. F3 ( )/Mktg./ Pavilion Construction/DT/ 2025/931/ Date:1.06.2026

EOI No.303/01/06/2026

Expression of Interest

Expression of Interest for Agencies working in the field of construction and setting up of Rajasthan Tourism stand pavilions in domestic and international travel marts

Department of Tourism, Government of Rajasthan as part of tourism promotion strategies takes part in various International Travel Marts such as Top Resa-Paris, ITB Asia, ITB China and ITB Berlin, WTM-London, FITUR-Madrid, Tourism Expo- Japan, ATM- Dubai, PATA, IMEX- USA etc. and Domestic Travel Marts such as TTF, IITM, ITM Tourism Fair,GTF, IITE, BTF, Suraj Kund Int. Craft Mela, IITF in various cities etc. The Department hires bare spaces of 9 to 100 sq. m.in Foreign Travel Marts and 9 to 300 sq. mtr. in Domestic Travel Marts at these events for construction and setting up of Rajasthan Tourism pavilions to showcase tourism products of the State along with the private sector partners.

Online E-Bids under two stage bidding process are invited from reputed, interested, eligible and experienced firms for rate contract of construction and setting up of Rajasthan Tourism pavilions in international travel marts on bare spaces as above.The validity of rate and period of work would be One year (1years) from the date of issue of order of rate contract. The contract can be extended up to one year with the mutual consent and satisfactory services.

Department of Tourism, Government of Rajasthan invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from agencies working in the field of construction and setting up of Stands and Pavilions in domestic and international travel marts for Rajasthan Tourism, with proven experience and credentials.

Name of Work	Estimated Cost of work (in Rs. excluding taxes)	E-Bid invited from	Bid Security	Time and last date for submission of bid	Time and date for opening of technical bid
Construction and setting up of Stand Pavilions in domestic travel marts for Rajasthan Tourism	2.50 Crore	01/06/2026	2% of the bid value i.e. Rs. 5.00 Lakh	24/06/2026 at 12.00 Noon	24/06/2026 At 3.00 PM
Construction and setting up of Stand Pavilions in International travel marts for Rajasthan Tourism	2.50 Crore	01/06/2026	2% of the bid value i.e. Rs. 5.00 Lakh	24/06/2026 at 12.00 Noon	24/06/2026 At 3.00 PM

(Note:Estimated cost of work is tentative)

The EOI can be downloaded from **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**, **www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** (e-procurement portal of the State Government) and **www.tourism.rajasthan.gov.in**. Duly filled bids can be submitted online latest by 24/06/2026 by 12.00 Noon. E-Bid processing fee of Rs. 2000/- (non-refundable) in favour of MD, RISL, Jaipur will have to be deposited through e-GRAS portal and Bid document fee of Rs.1000/- (non-refundable) in favour of Commissioner, Department of Tourism, Rajasthan, Jaipur and bid security of Rs. 5.00 Lakh (each) (2% of the bid value) will have to be deposited through e-GRAS portal/DD/BC and submitted physically to the Department before last date and time of submission of EOI.

Time and date for opening of technical bid is 24/06/2026 at 3:00 pm. The detailed EOI document can be download from www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and www.tourism.rajasthan.gov.in from date 01/06/2026. For any other information contact on +91-141-2822807 or email - mktg-dot@rajasthan.gov.in.

UBN No. TOU2627SLRC00010 **(Anand Kumar Tripathi)**
DIPR/C/9798/2026 **Additional Director(Dev.)**

KYIV

Ukraine recaptures more than 600 square km in 2026: military chief

AP

Ukrainian forces have recaptured more than 600 square kilometres of territory so far this year, Ukraine's top military commander Oleksandr Syrskyi said on Monday, the latest sign of a changing tide after years of slow but relentless Russian gains. In May alone, Ukraine recaptured 100 sq. km more of territory than it lost. REUTERS

PORT LOUIS

Mauritius rejects reported move by Trump to buy Chagos Islands

REUTERS

Mauritius said on Monday that it had not received any proposal from the [Donald] Trump administration on the Chagos Islands, after the *Telegraph* reported that the White House was planning to buy the islands. "Mauritius's position remains unchanged: its sovereignty over the Chagos is non-negotiable," it said. REUTERS

HERAT

Afghan Taliban detain women for alleged violation of clothing rules

AFP

Afghan residents in the city of Herat witnessed multiple women detained by the Taliban government's morality police, in a crackdown over clothing which has drawn criticism from the United Nations. The UN mission in Afghanistan said on Sunday that the arrests and detentions raise "serious human rights concerns." AFP

LONDON

U.K. PM set to ban 'harmful' social media for teens under-16: report

ISTOCKPHOTO

Tech giants operating in Britain must stop children from circulating nude images on their phones or be forced to do so by law, Prime Minister Keir Starmer said on Monday. The announcement comes as the *Times* reported that the Prime Minister is also mulling a ban on some social media platforms for those aged under 16. REUTERS

Houthis claim missile attack, declare 'total ban' on Israeli ships in Red Sea

Yemen-based Iran-aligned group launches air attack on Israel, says Israel-affiliated ships would again become a target in the Red Sea; the escalation comes as the Strait of Hormuz remains blockaded by Iran due to the war in West Asia with the U.S.

Agence France-Presse
SANAA

Iran-aligned Houthi rebels in Yemen announced a missile attack on Israel on Monday and declared a ban on Israeli shipping in the Red Sea, raising the spectre of a return to major disruption on the key route.

The Houthis' attack came as Israel and Iran traded fire on Monday, putting the ceasefire under renewed strain and threatening hopes for a peace deal.

The Houthis made a similar threat and targeted cargo ships in the vital seaway during the Israel-Hamas war, forcing many companies into a lengthy detour around the tip of southern Africa. The assaults upended shipping in the Red Sea, through which about $1 trillion of goods passed each year before the war.

War fallout: Two men examine a rocket half-buried in the ground near the West Bank city of Jericho on Monday. AFP

Their threat comes as the Strait of Hormuz, the gateway to the Gulf sea and its energy exporters, remains blockaded by Iran as a result of the war in West Asia with the U.S. and Israel.

'Legitimate targets'

"We declare a complete and total ban on Israeli maritime navigation in the Red Sea," said a statement from the Houthis' armed forces. "We consider all enemy movements to be legitimate military targets for our armed forces from the moment this statement is issued."

The statement from Brigadier General Yahya Saree was broadcast on the Houthis' al-Masirah satellite news channel.

The Houthis, who joined the war in support of Iran in March, had not announced a missile attack on Israel since a fragile ceasefire began on April 8.

The Houthis have fired missiles at Israel during the Israel-Hamas war and later, but haven't been fully involved in the Iran war.

They said they "launched a missile barrage targeting sensitive Israeli enemy targets", claiming the strikes "achieved their objectives with precision".

The Israeli military earlier wrote on Telegram that it "has identified the launch of a missile from Yemen toward Israeli territory, aerial defence systems are operating to intercept the threat".

An Israeli military official said two missiles were fired by the Houthis since Sunday evening.

The Houthis and Lebanon-based Hezbollah form part of the "Axis of Resistance" grouping of pro-Iran forces opposed to Israel and the United States.

Major quake off Philippines kills at least 35, many missing

Agence France-Presse
MANILA

A 7.8-magnitude earthquake in the southern Philippines on Monday killed at least 35 people, according to provincial authorities, after toppling buildings and sparking tsunami warnings across the region.

National disaster authorities said at least a dozen people were still missing, while 134 had sustained injuries.

Authorities urged people in affected coastal regions to move to higher ground after the offshore quake hit south of General Santos, a city of about 720,000, where the death toll stood at 12, according to a local command centre.

A series of powerful aftershocks rocked the area from about two hours after the first quake, according to the U.S. Geological Survey, with the largest measuring magnitude 6.5.

Rubbled remains: A damaged building seen in General Santos, Philippines, following a magnitude 7.8 quake on Monday. AP

Rene Punzalan, disaster chief for hard-hit Sarangani province, said 14 people had died in Glan municipality alone when a landslide buried their homes.

Mr. Punzalan said that more than 2,000 people evacuated due to a morning tsunami warning were now awaiting a green light to return to their homes.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center issued a tsunami alert for the Philippines, Indonesia, Palau, Taiwan and Papua New Guinea. But by mid-afternoon, the notices were cancelled.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ordered an immediate disaster response. "The national government is moving and we will not leave anyone behind," Mr. Marcos said in a statement.

Lebanon was struck close to 3,500 times since truce: Minister

Reuters
BEIRUT

Israel has carried out nearly 3,500 air strikes on Lebanon and hundreds of controlled explosions since the U.S.-brokered ceasefire came into effect on April 17, Lebanon's Defence Minister, Michel Menassa, said on Monday.

During a Cabinet meeting, Mr. Menassa said that from April 17 to June 7, Israel had carried out 3,491 air strikes, 407 controlled demolitions and six "razing" operations, or demolitions - which have left some entire villages in the southernmost strip of Lebanon entirely flattened.

Already, more than 1 million people have been displaced by Israel's strikes and evacuation warnings across Lebanon since the war erupted on March 2.

While Israel has largely halted air strikes on Beirut and its suburbs, the truce has failed to stop the fighting in southern Lebanon between Israel and Iran-aligned group Hezbollah.

Xi and Kim express hopes for greater ties between China and North Korea

Associated Press
SEOUL

Chinese President Xi Jinping and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un underscored their commitment to deepen cooperation in a closely watched summit on Monday, as Mr. Xi made a rare visit to Pyongyang in a likely attempt to reassert Beijing's unique influence over its socialist neighbour.

It's Mr. Xi's first visit to North Korea in seven years. Earlier on Monday, he was given a lavish welcome upon arrival at Pyongyang's international airport. He and his wife Peng Liyuan were greeted by Mr. Kim and his wife Ri Sol Ju.

Rare visit: Chinese President Xi Jinping and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un at a welcome ceremony in Pyongyang on Monday. AP

Mr. Xi later arrived at Pyongyang's main square, where a military honour guard and thousands of people staged a welcoming ceremony.

In a summit later in the day, Mr. Xi expressed China's willingness to expand cooperation in a wide range of areas including trade, agriculture, construction and technology, China's state broadcaster CCTV said in an online report.

Mr. Kim said Mr. Xi's visit "clearly demonstrates how unbreakable" the North Korean-China relationship is, CCTV said. It cited Mr. Kim as saying that consolidating a new era of friendship between the two countries is the "unchanging strategic choice" of North Korea.

Trump's $100,000 fee for H-1B visa fee is unlawful, court rules

Reuters
BOSTON

A federal judge on Monday struck down a $100,000 fee that U.S. President Donald Trump imposed on new H-1B visas for highly skilled foreign workers, concluding that it constituted an unlawful tax that Congress never authorised.

U.S. District Judge Leo Sorokin in Boston issued the ruling in a lawsuit filed by 20 Democratic State Attorneys General challenging a fee Mr. Trump announced in September that raised the cost of obtaining H-1B visas.

The H-1B program offers 65,000 visas annually, with another 20,000 visas for workers with advanced degrees, approved for three to six years. Employers seeking a visa for a foreign worker before Mr. Trump's proclamation paid about $2,000 to $5,000 in fees. The increase in fees has discouraged H-1B visa requests, according to court filings.

Sport

England has an exciting bunch... to be the best, you have to beat the best

In a World Cup, it is always match by match, and we are concentrating on the three group-stage matches against Croatia, Ghana and Panama. A pulsating battle awaits

INTERVIEW

Harry Kane

The influential England striker, Harry Kane, will look to end the country's 60-year World Cup drought as he leads the side for the third time. Excerpts:

Your third World Cup as England captain...

Obviously, it is a great honour for me to lead my country for the third time in a World Cup. When my career as a professional footballer took off, I had a dream to represent the Three Lions in a World Cup. Now, it will be my third as captain; I did not even dream about it! In all these editions, we tried our best to win it (title) but could not. This year, too, the ambition is the same. It is difficult to predict where we will finish, but the will is there. England always plays to win.

With 48 teams, winning the World Cup seems to be more difficult...?

Winning the World Cup has always been difficult, no questions! Yes, the winner this time will be playing one more match in the knockout stage. That does make it more difficult. But it is good to have more nations in the final phase. When there are more teams, there are more challenges. If you need to be the best, you have to beat the best teams.

In 2018, England lost in the semifinals. It is the closest you have come to the trophy. You won the golden boot, too...

Yes, it was heartbreak for all of us. Losing to Croatia in extra time, our dream ended with Mario Mandzukic scoring late (109th minute) at the Luzhniki Stadium. However, we learned from our mistakes and played well in the following tournaments. We reached two Euro finals (in 2021 and 2024). Although we didn' win, reaching the final of a continental tournament is commendable.

How disappointing was the penalty miss against France in 2022?

Well, at that time, I felt that it was the lowest point of my career. We were in the World Cup quarterfinals and 1-2 behind when the opportunity knocked at our door. I failed to convert from the spot. It, however, made me stronger. I had to change my penalty-taking technique a little and I did not miss one in the next 30 or so. I continue to take penalties for my teams – club and country. It has helped me mentally.

England will be playing under a new coach in Thomas Tuchel...

He was in Bayern Munich and was one of the reasons behind me joining the German club. We had a lovely understanding, and he used me differently there. That continued even after he left the job at Bayern and became our national team coach. It's exciting to have him as the head coach of our side.

With the new coach and some new faces, can England reach the summit?

The goal is to be there, but it will be difficult. World Cup is the most challenging task for the players, managers and teams. We have some exciting new talents under an able coach who knows how to use us tactically.

England is placed in a tough group (Croatia, Ghana and Panama)...

That is true. We start against Croatia, the finalist in Russia 2018 and semifinalist in Qatar 2022. Our semifinal defeat (2018) will again be discussed before the match. Luka Modric and his team will be keen to follow the same route. Ghana is strong while Panama is ready to surprise the world. We expect a pulsating group battle.

The knockouts will be tougher even if you top the group...

In a World Cup, it is always match by match. So, we are concentrating on these three group-stage matches. Each team is a challenge. So, there is no point in over thinking. Let us do the job at hand first.

(Professional Management Group).

Priceless gem: Kane's goal-scoring form augurs well for England as it prepares to face a tricky group-stage test. GETTY IMAGES

STATUS QUO

No extra emphasis on Pant to change his game, says Kotak

R.V. MOORTHY

India's batting coach Sitanshu Kotak said on Monday there is no additional emphasis on Rishabh Pant to alter his game. "I don't think Pant alone has to play according to the situation. Everyone should play freely, but when the team requires something in red-ball cricket, every player should adapt accordingly," said Kotak.

COMFORTABLE WIN

Shreyanka, Radha spin India past Windies in T20 WC warm-up tie

X@BCCIWOMEN

Shreyanka Patil and Radha Yadav shone as India scored a 26-run win over the West Indies in a T20 World Cup warm-up fixture at Cardiff on Monday. **The scores:** India 179/8 in 20 overs (Shafali 29, Smriti 39, Yastika 36, Bharti 56 n.o.) bt West Indies 153/8 in 20 overs (Dottin 49, Campbelle 25, Radha 3/25, Shreyanka 4/36). **Toss:** WI.

IN AND OUT

Brazil midfielder Ederson replaces injured Wesley in the WC squad

FIFA

The Brazilian football federation announced on Sunday that injured full-back Wesley will be replaced in the World Cup squad by midfielder Ederson. Wesley suffered a thigh injury in Saturday's 2-1 friendly win over Egypt. Atalanta's 26-year-old Ederson made the last of his three international appearances in March 2025.

RUN SNAPPED

Marschall ends Duplantis' 40-meet winning streak in pole vault

REUTERS

Swedish pole vaulter Armand Duplantis fell to his first loss after 40 consecutive victories since 2023 at his home Diamond League event in Stockholm on Sunday. Duplantis cleared 5.80m but failed twice at 6 and once at 6.05. Australia's Kurtis Marschall *(in pic)* won with a vault of 5.90. It was Duplantis' first outdoor event of the year.

Manav and Washington bowl India to its biggest victory

The debutant claims a six-for in the first essay; the offie scalps four while Kuldeep strikes thrice as the Afghans get bundled out for 112 after following on, crashing to a defeat well inside three days

AFGHANISTAN IN INDIA

Vivek Krishnan
NEW CHANDIGARH

The one-off Test against Afghanistan was India's first at home since 2010 without either the now-retired R. Ashwin or the rested Ravindra Jadeja. Much like Ashwin and Jadeja at their vintage best in the subcontinent, left-arm spinner Manav Suthar and off-spinner Washington Sundar dovetailed nicely to propel the host to victory by an innings and 300 runs inside three days at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh Stadium on Monday. It is India's biggest win by an innings in Test history.

Notwithstanding the caveat that the Afghans lack skill and experience in the five-day format, India will take a lot of heart from Manav's match haul of seven wickets on debut. The 23-year-old left-arm spinner returned exemplary figures of 22-10-33-6 in the first essay, becoming the seventh Indian to take a five-for in his debut innings.

In the second dig, Washington came to the fore with four for 36 while left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav chipped in with three scalps.

Replying to India's mammoth 564 for eight declared, Afghanistan, which was 113 for five overnight, was shot out for 152 and 112. The one-sided contest came to a close shortly after the tea interval, with the visitor's implosion entailing the fall of seven wickets for just 25 runs in its second innings (Sharafuddin Ashraf was absent hurt).

Having conceded a first-innings deficit of 412, Hashmatullah Shahidi & Co. were forced to follow on. They had a more robust start second time around as Sediqullah Atal stitched together a 42-run opening stand with Abdul Malik. Sediqullah's keenness to take on the Indian spinners was evident.

But once Mohammed Siraj pinned Malik plumb in front in the 14th over, India had a foot in the door.

As the afternoon wore on, the Afghan batters couldn't strike the right balance between attack and defence. Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Rahmat Shah and Sediqullah succumbed to rash shots just before tea.

In Afghanistan's first innings, Manav ran through the lower-order. Adding to his three victims on Sunday, the youngster induced a faint edge from Sharafuddin Ashraf.

In his next over, the tweaker punched the air in delight as he castled Rahmat around his legs for his five-for. Just three balls later, he trapped Mohammad Saleem leg-before.

A large chunk of Manav's deliveries homed in on the good-length area. Through his spells, he conveyed the impression of a bowler acutely aware of the demands of the classical version. It points to a bright future.

Spin twins: Manav and Washington accounted for 12 wickets as India crushed Afghanistan in the one-off Test. R.V. MOORTHY

SCOREBOARD

INDIA — IST INNINGS
564 for eight decl. in 127 overs

AFGHANISTAN — 1ST INNINGS
Abdul Malik c Siraj b Manav 16 *(18b, 3x4)*, Sediqullah Atal b Prasidh 17 *(27b, 3x4)*, Rahmanullah Gurbaz c Sai Sudharsan b Manav 12 *(40b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Rahmat Shah b Manav 60 *(135b, 9x4, 1x6)*, Hashmatullah Shahidi lbw b Prasidh 20 *(48b, 4x4)*, Afsar Zazai c & b Manav 3 *(26b)*, Azmatullah Omarzai b Prasidh 0 *(10b)*, Sharafuddin Ashraf c Pant b Manav 11 *(32b, 2x4)*, Nangeyalia Kharote (not out) 4 *(12b)*, Mohammad Saleem lbw b Manav 0 *(3b)*, Ziaur Rahman c Pant b Washington 6 *(3b, 1x6)*; Extras (nb-2, w-1): 3; Total (in 58.4 overs): 152.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-28 (Malik, 5.4 overs), 2-40 (Sediquallah, 8.4), 3-62 (Gurbaz, 19.2), 4-98 (Shahidi, 32.2), 5-113 (Afsar, 39.5), 6-118 (Omarzai, 44.2), 7-142 (Ashraf, 55.1), 8-143 (Rahmat, 57.2), 9-143 (Saleem, 57.5).

INDIA BOWLING
Siraj 9-2-29-0, Prasidh 11-2-37-3, Manav 22-10-33-6, Kuldeep 10-1-32-0, Washington 6.4-1-21-1.

AFGHANISTAN — 2ND INNINGS
Atal c Prasidh b Washington 42 *(80b, 5x4, 1x6)*, Malik lbw b Siraj 8 *(40b)*, Gurbaz c Prasidh b Kuldeep 24 *(24b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Rahmat c Manav b Washington 13 *(16b, 1x6)*, Shahidi c Gill b Washington 5 *(10b, 1x4)*, Afsar lbw b Manav 8 *(19b, 1x4)*, Omarzai c Kuldeep b Washington 4 *(5b)*, Kharote c Manav b Kuldeep 6 *(11b, 1x6)*, Ziaur (not out) 0 *(11b)*, Saleem c Sai Sudharsan b Kuldeep 0 *(1b)*, Ashraf (absent hurt); Extras (nb-2): 2; Total (in 35.5 overs): 112.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-42 (Malik, 13.1), 2-74 (Gurbaz, 19.1), 3-87 (Rahmat, 22.6), 4-93 (Shahidi, 26.3), 5-98 (Sediqullah, 28.6), 6-106 (Afsar, 31.5), 7-106 (Omarzai, 32.1), 8-112 (Kharote, 35.4), 9-112 (Saleem, 35.5).

INDIA BOWLING
Manav 10-2-29-1, Prasidh 3-0-6-0, Kuldeep 7.5-1-30-3, Siraj 4-1-11-1, Washington 11-4-36-4.

PoM: Manav.

India won by an innings and 300 runs.

Next match: First ODI: June 13, Dharamshala, 1.30 p.m.

Test cricket is a game of patience: Manav

Vivek Krishnan
NEW CHANDIGARH

The Indian cricket ecosystem has had its eye on Manav Suthar for a few years. In conversations, many would speak glowingly of the 23-year-old's rhythmic action, flight, bounce and the revolutions imparted, all of which allowed the left-arm spinner to extract considerable turn even on flatter surfaces.

There was irrefutable evidence of all his virtues over the past three days as Manav stole the show in his debut Test against Afghanistan at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh Stadium. Admittedly, the batters at the other end weren't out of the top drawer, but on a deck that was far from being a dustbowl, Manav turned heads just by the frequency with which he spun the ball past the right-handers.

The fruits of his hard work were figures of six for 33 in 22 overs in the first innings, facilitating his addition to an elite list of Indian bowlers with five-wicket hauls on debut.

Afterwards, Manav, adjudged the Player-of-the-Match, couldn't hide his delight at the proceedings in New Chandigarh. "It is an unreal feeling. My dream from the beginning was to play Test cricket for India. At the start, I wanted to see how the pitch was playing. So, I backed the stock delivery. Then, I used subtle variations. Test cricket is a game of patience, so just bowl with patience," he said at the presentation.

Back in Sri Ganganagar, a city in Rajasthan that is located near the border with Pakistan, Manav's father echoed his son's fondness for the classical version. "I always believed that Manav would play Test cricket for India first. White-ball cricket can come later," Jagdish Suthar, a retired school teacher who had attended the first day's play, told *The Hindu*.

Now, it is up to Manav to make this the first of many appearances.

In elite company: Manav castled Rahmat to become the seventh Indian to register a five-for in his debut innings. R.V. MOORTHY

Iran arrives amidst a tumultuous lead-up; France and Spain bring their star power

FIFA WC COUNTDOWN

N. Sudarshan

Placed in a tough Group I, France, Senegal and Norway will have to bring their A-game to the FIFA World Cup. Belgium (G), Spain and Uruguay (H) have a relatively easier start to the campaign.

Group G (Belgium, Iran, Egypt and New Zealand)

Belgium's golden generation finished third in 2018. In 2026, that gold has lost its sheen.

The likes of Kevin De Bruyne, Thibaut Courtois, Romelu Lukaku and Axel Witsel are still around, but the famed backline comprising Toby Alderweireld, Vincent Kompany, Thomas Vermaelen and Jan Vertonghen no longer exists.

Coach Rudi Garcia will thus be pinning his hopes on his attack, which also has the speedy Manchester City winger Jeremy Doku.

There are, however, doubts over Lukaku's preparedness, with Belgium's all-time top-scorer (90 goals) playing just an hour of football all season for Napoli.

But the strength of the group is such that Belgium is the favourite. Iran, at No. 21, and Egypt, at No. 29, are both not up to scratch.

Iran has featured in each of the last three World Cups, but has exited in the group stage. Currently, the country is in the middle of a military standoff with the United States, something that seriously threatened its participation.

And because of safety concerns, Iran will be based in Mexico, and travel long distances to Los Angeles and Seattle to play. Supreme tenacity will be the need of the hour.

Egypt, at least on paper, seems slightly better because it has Mohamed Salah. The world stage is one place where he is yet to excel, having played just two games in Egypt's group-stage exit in the 2018 showpiece.

The 33-year-old will also be eager to reiterate his footballing worth after a not-so-pleasant exit from Liverpool.

Surprisingly, Egypt, a seven-time Africa Cup of Nations champion, has never won a match at the World Cup. Will the largely turgid football it plays, with the only goal-scoring route through Salah, help break the duck?

There is a chance that this approach may work against New Zealand, the lowest-ranked side at the tournament (No. 85). For that, Nottingham Forest's Chris Wood, scorer of 45 goals for the Kiwis, should be shut down.

Interestingly, the New Zealand football team is called 'All Whites', contrary to the unofficial national colour black. White is about peace. But sport is war minus the shooting.

Linchpins: Mbappe will be keen to regain France's World Cup crown. De Bruyne's Belgium comes with an ageing squad while Yamal will be Spain's bow and arrow. AFP, REUTERS & AP

Best finish: Belgium: Third place (2018); Iran: Group stage (1978, 1998, 2006, 2014, 2018, 2022); Egypt: Group stage (1934, 1990, 2018); New Zealand: Group stage (1982, 2010).

Group H (Spain, Uruguay, Saudi Arabia and Cape Verde)

Ever since Spain won its maiden World Cup in 2010, it hasn't gone past the round of 16. In 2026, it cannot afford a similar fate.

Ranked second in the world, Spain arrives in North America with a first-rate side, despite not having a single player from Real Madrid.

The 2024 European champion's trump card will be Barcelona star Lamine Yamal, already the metronome for both club and country.

And in Nico Williams and Mikel Oyarzabal, the 18-year-old winger will be supplemented well. Yamal and Williams sustained hamstring injuries recently but are expected to be fit.

In midfield, there is an embarrassment of riches, with Pedri, Gavi, Martin Zubimendi, Rodri and Fabian Ruiz all in the roster.

Three world-class goalkeepers in Unai Simon, David Raya and Joan Garcia, and the calming presence of Barcelona defender Eric Garcia make the Luis de la Fuente-coached team well-rounded.

Competing with Spain for the top spot – however improbable it looks – will be Uruguay, the two-time Cup winner.

But the Marcelo Bielsa-marshalled outfit, despite being powered by Real Madrid midfielder Federico Valverde, no longer has that cutting edge quality, especially without strikers Luis Suarez (omitted) and Edinson Cavani (retired).

For success, it needs to summon the spirits that helped beat Brazil and Argentina in 2023, and finish third at the 2024 Copa America.

Saudi Arabia, the third-best side in the group, famously beat Argentina 2-1 at Qatar 2022. But it no longer has the coach who masterminded that heist – Herve Renard.

Georgios Donis from Greece was appointed only two months ago, and he has his task cut out if his wards are to match the round-of-16 effort from 1994 (also in the United States).

Cape Verde, an archipelago off Africa's west coast with a population as low as six lakh, is the fourth member.

It's the third-smallest nation ever at a World Cup, and a majority of the squad is foreign-born as a result of significant outward migration before the country gained independence from Portugal in 1975.

Best finish: Spain: Champion (2010); Uruguay: Champion (1930, 1950); Saudi Arabia: Round of 16 (1994); Cape Verde: Debut.

Group I (France, Senegal, Norway and Iraq)

If Brazil and Argentina are football's eternal favourites, France is its newfound royalty. In the last seven editions, the European nation has won the World Cup twice, finished runner-up twice and made another quarterfinal.

The central figure here is coach Didier Deschamps, who won the World Cup in 1998 as a player and has been France's manager since July 2012. The North American sojourn will be his swansong, and he will be eager to part on a high.

Kylian Mbappe is his main man, with Ballon d'Or winner Ousmane Dembele and Bayern Munich winger Michael Olise forming the support cast. That players such as Desire Doue and Bradley Barcola – both from Paris Saint Germain – are likely to start from the bench says a lot about *Les Blues*' strength.

But in the 14 years Deschamps has been in charge, France has been criticised for playing with its handbrake on. If the side can marry its defensive solidity – only four goals conceded in the qualifying – with its fearsome attack, opponents will have a torrid time.

Senegal would want to remind France that it has not always played out that way. The African nation upset the then defending champion in 2002 en route a quarterfinal finish. And in 2026, it remains strong, powered by former Liverpool star Sadio Mane.

Interestingly, Senegal won the Africa Cup of Nations in January only to be stripped of the title after some of its players left the field during the final protesting a penalty awarded to Morocco. The case awaits adjudication at the Court of Arbitration for Sport. An authoritative on-field effort will not hurt.

Norway is the underdog in this group despite having Manchester City's Erling Haaland and Arsenal's Martin Odegaard. The Nordic country is returning to the World Cup stage for the first time since 1998. Can it leave an indelible mark?

For Iraq, qualification itself should count as success. The war-torn nation was the last to punch its ticket, beating Bolivia in an away Inter-Confederation Playoff in March after travelling 12 hours by road and 17 hours by air. Whatever it does in North America will be a bonus.

Best finish: France: Champion (1998, 2018); Senegal: Quarterfinal (2002); Norway: Round of 16 (1998); Iraq: Group stage (1986).

** The 1934 World Cup was a 16-team knockout tournament.*

Host England the team to watch out for in Group B

It has never lost a home World Cup across formats; holder New Zealand eyes an encore; Windies will face stiff challenge with Sri Lanka, Scotland and Ireland looking to punch above their weight

T20 WC COUNTDOWN

Lavanya L.

The second bracket of the expanded 12-team ICC women's T20 World Cup might seem lighter on action when compared to the Group of Death featuring heavyweights Australia, India and South Africa. Group B pits inaugural winner England, holder New Zealand, former champion West Indies, Sri Lanka, Scotland and Ireland in a six-way tussle for the two semifinal slots.

Nat Sciver-Brunt's England will be one to watch for reasons far beyond the pitch. As host, the England and Wales Cricket Board has packed an ambitious marketing campaign to boost the women's game and will be heavily helped if the home team does well.

Charlotte Edwards, who lifted the first-ever Women's T20 World Cup trophy at Lord's 17 years ago, is now hoping to replicate her feat as coach. But batting inconsistencies and line-up confusion stand in the way. A 2-1 series victory over India leading up to the showpiece would have been a shot in the arm.

England has never lost a home World Cup across formats and will hope that record stays intact.

New Zealand may have surrendered 1-2 to England in a bilateral series a few weeks ago, but White Ferns should not be underestimated. They benefited from spirited performances and senior players stepping up to the job, coinciding with other teams making fatal errors in a tournament stingy with its second chances, in the last edition.

Influential all-rounder: Skipper Sciver-Brunt holds the key to England's success. AFP

Old issues remain in 2026, too. The batting order can be quite fickle and ever so often fall back on the ever-dependent Sophie Devine. But with a new captain, Amelia Kerr – the Player-of-the-Series in the 2024 edition – the Kiwis will want to go back to back, particularly to give senior pros Devine, Suzie Bates and Lea Tahuhu – who will bow out of the format after this tournament – a fitting farewell.

West Indies won't find it easy to repeat its 2016 heroics, not with Chamari Athapaththu's Sri Lanka, Scotland and Ireland breathing down its neck in the group stage. But if rain delays that have interrupted the warm-ups endure during the tournament, the Windies have the firepower to be on the favourable side of Net Run Rate conversations.

Scotland and Ireland are at a disadvantage of not playing full member nations as often as they might like to really measure their strengths. That said, they will keep a top-eight finish in mind to lock automatic qualification for the next World Cup to be hosted by Pakistan.

This edition will have the most number of European teams (four) in any World Cup and given geographical proximity, teams can expect crowds to raise the roof.

England, though, will hope that with this marquee event to be followed by a historic Test against Harmanpreet Kaur & Co. at Lord's, and The Hundred, women's cricket gains greatly. A shiny addition to its trophy cabinet will be the icing on the cake.

I am keen to see how Sooryavanshi does in Australia or England: McGrath

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Australian legend Glenn McGrath was pleased with how MRF Pace Foundation trainees Praful Hinge and Sakib Hussain performed for Sunrisers Hyderabad in the recent IPL season.

"I was very impressed with all of them. Sakib played many games and took some good wickets. For Praful to start with three wickets in his first over, it doesn't get much better than that, does it? And then you had Eshan Malinga, who came here from Sri Lanka and spent time. Watching the three boys consistently play well for Sunrisers, I was very proud of them," said McGrath, who heads the Foundation.

Proud teacher: McGrath swelled with pride when looking back at the IPL performances of Praful, Sakib and Eshan. R. RAGU

"Praful has had some injuries as well. But it was good to see him come back and play, and that's what you want. You want them to have game time and a bit of success."

McGrath hailed 15-year-old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's impressive show for Rajasthan Royals but wanted to see how he fares in overseas conditions. "He was incredible... to be the leading run-scorer in the IPL with 70-odd (72) sixes. He's got that back lift, a bit like Brian Lara, and is obviously a powerful hitter. He was unbelievable. It would only happen in India or the subcontinent. I couldn't see a 15-year-old playing in Australia.

"They have no fear, do they? They just back themselves. If it's there, they don't care if it's a guy bowling his first over or someone like Pat Cummins, who's one of the best bowlers in the world.

"In India, you can pick the line up and hit through it. If he goes and plays in England or Australia, I'd be keen to see how he does there," said the 56-year-old.

SNAPSHOTS

Sooryavanshi in focus

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi will be the cynosure when India-A begins its tri-series campaign against Sri Lanka-A in Dambulla on Tuesday. Afghanistan-A is the third side.

India-A's fixtures (all matches in Dambulla): June 9: vs. Sri Lanka-A; June 11: vs. Afghanistan-A; June 15: vs. Sri Lanka-A; June 17: vs. Afghanistan-A.

U Mumba takes on Goa Challengers in opener

MUMBAI: U Mumba TT will begin its Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) title defence against two-time champion Dempo Goa Challengers on the opening day of the seventh edition, to be played in Panaji from July 9 to 26. The semifinals will be on July 24 and 25, while the final will be on July 26.

Karthikeya excels in Vultures CC's win

BENGALURU: K.P. Karthikeya (62 and 5/47) powered Vultures CC past Social Cricketers in the KSCA Y.S. Ramaswamy Memorial Trophy.

The scores: Pre-quarterfinals: Social Cricketers 306 in 49.5 overs (K.V. Aneesh 106, Aadarsh Prajwal 46, V. Vyshak 56, K.P. Karthikeya 5/47) lost to Vultures 240/6 in 30 overs (D. Nischal 77, K.P. Karthikeya 62) *by 38 runs via VJD method (match stopped due to rain).*

Palar SC, Kolar 247 in 42.3 overs (D. Chiranth 73, Preetesh 56, K. Ambresh 50, Shreyas Gopal 4/50) tied with Swastic Union (1) 247 in 50 overs (Rohan Patil 57, Sanmay Rudrawadi 44, Bhimrao Navale 53) *Super Over: Swastic Union (1) 15 for no loss in one over bt Palar 8/0 in one over.*

Mount Joy 220/9 in 50 overs (Samarth Srinivas 64) lost to Vijaya 221/4 in 41.5 overs (Tushar Singh 96).

Herons 301 in 50 overs (Surendra Rathore 100, Jacob Edward 42, L.R. Kumar 5/54) bt Sir Syed Cricketers 152/6 in 34.5 overs (B.A. Mohith 53) *by 73 runs via VJD method (match stopped due to rain).*

Bangalore Occasionals 283/8 in 50 overs (Suraj Ahuja 55, Kranthi Kumar 128) bt Chintamani Sports Association, Chintamani 245/7 in 50 overs (Aaron Cyril Christie 54, Revanth Bairy 57, Babu Pranav 58, M.G. Naveen 4/25).

Cambridge 308/7 in 50 overs (Macneil Hadley Noronha 111, Shubhang Hegde 116, Sourab Muttur 4/52) bt Jayanagar Cricketers 150 in 34.4 overs (S. Chaitanya 42, Reddy Saharsh 49).

Dooravani Cricketers (1) 192 in 45 overs (M. Keerthi 85) lost to Coles 193/3 in 23.2 overs (L.R. Chethana 90, A. Yuvraj 70).

Swastic Union (2) 309/9 in 50 overs (Hardik Raj 55, S. Sujay 74) bt Rajajinagar Cricketers 74 in 18.5 overs (Manvanth Kumar 4/36).

Karnataka Forest Department runs riot

Karnataka Forest Department crushed Coorg Blues Hockey Club 15-1 in a one-sided KSHA Super Division hockey league match on Monday.

The results: Karnataka Forest Department 15 (S. Bijwad Mithu 1, 45, Dharshan 3, 10, 24, 34, 49, Surya 18, Syed Basha 22, 27, 41, Arjun Reddy 33, 36, 38, 40) bt Coorg Blues HC 1 (Nithin 28).

5 'C' SC 2 (Amit 22, Pankaj Sharma 50) bt Delhi Public School 1 (Sibin Balakrishna 8).

LIVE TELECAST

Bangladesh vs Australia: 1st ODI, FanCode, 10.30 a.m.

Tri-series: Sri Lanka-A vs India-A, Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 11 a.m.

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